Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Summary

Understanding the Census and Census Data

About the Census

Since the first national Census in 1911, Census data has played an important role in charting Australia's history and shaping its future.

As Australia's largest statistical collection, the information you provide in the Census helps estimate Australia's population, which is used to set electoral boundaries for all levels of government, underpins the distribution of billions of dollars in public funding and informs planning for services and infrastructure for every community in Australia.

While some of this information is available from other sources, only a Census can provide the information for the entire country, including small geographic areas and small population groups.

Census Independent Assurance Panel

An independent panel of eminent Australian and international statisticians, academics, and state government representatives was established to independently review and assure the quality of statistical outputs from the 2016 Census.

Overall, the panel found 2016 Census data to be fit for rebasing the Estimated Resident Population and having comparable quality to previous Australian Censuses and International Censuses. The panel concluded that 2016 Census data can be used with confidence.

Independent Assurance Panel: Report on the quality of 2016 Census data.

How we collected your information

How we collected your information - the what, who, when, why and how of the Australian Census

What

The Census of Population and Housing (hereafter, simply "the Census") is the largest statistical collection undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It aims to connect with every person in Australia and collect information about them and the place they are staying (houses, apartments, hotels, caravans, hospitals, etc.) in on Census night. The Census also collects information about those houses, townhouses, apartments, etc. that have no people in them on Census night so these can be included in the overall count of dwellings.

Who

The Census counts all people in Australia on Census night (excluding foreign diplomats and their families). This means that visitors to Australia are counted regardless of how long they have been in the country or how long they plan to stay, but that Australian residents who are overseas on Census night are not included.

People in Norfolk Island on Census night were counted for the first time in the 2016 Australian Census following passage of the *Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Act 2015*. The Territories of Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island have been included in the Australian Census since 1996. Expeditioners to Australian bases in the Australian Antarctic Territory (and other locations) are also included in Census counts.

When

The most recent Australian Census was held on Tuesday 9th August 2016.

Why

Information (or data) from the Census is unique because it is the only source of information for small areas (smaller than suburbs) and for small population groups (for example, small migrant groups) across the whole of the country. This detail provides richness to the planning, administration, policy development and evaluation activities of governments and other users.

Census data also provides the basis for official population estimates (the Estimated Resident Population) for Australia, state, territory and local government areas. These estimates help determine the distribution of government funds and the number of seats in the House of Representatives allocated to each state and territory. Australia's Constitution states that the 'number of members (in the House of Representatives) chosen in the several States shall be in proportion to the respective numbers of their people'.

For more information on the background, importance and uses of the Census, please refer to Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016.

How

Reaching every person who is in Australia on Census night, and ensuring that every dwelling is counted, requires many years of planning and coordination. The aim is to develop a method of enumeration that is as efficient and effective as possible, while ensuring the quality of the information collected is of a high standard.

The 2011 Census and earlier

For the 2011 Census and earlier Censuses, the ABS relied on a large workforce in the field to list every household across Australia, then to knock on every door to attempt to make contact with householders and to deliver paper Census forms or online Census login codes. The field officers not only delivered and then collected Census materials but recorded some characteristics about the houses in which the people lived.

In 2011, generally less than half of doors were answered on each contact attempt, requiring field officers to return multiple times to dwellings to try to make contact. The sheer number of field officers required to cover the entire country was also beyond the capacity of the available labour market in some areas.

For more information about the method for collecting 2011 Census data, please refer to How Australia Takes a Census, 2011.

The 2016 Census

For the 2016 Census, the ABS developed a new method that addressed the difficulties in recruiting field staff as well as investing in the advantages and efficiencies of new technologies. Changes were designed taking into account international best practices in Census taking and building on the Australian public's increasing access to and use of the internet, and their willing support of the Census.

The new method made three main changes from that used in earlier Censuses.

1. The development of a national Address Register to support mailing out of materials to households across Australia. The Address Register was formed using the Geocoded National Address File (GNAF) as its base and then built on using information gained through visiting every address through a large canvassing exercise, in addition to analysing other available data. This register formed the basis of addresses to which information was mailed out.

2. The postal delivery of an instruction letter detailing how to complete the Census online or how to request a paper form. Paper forms were then despatched and mailed back via Australia Post so that Census field officers only visited a minority of homes, where the use of the mail service was not considered viable or where a Census form had not been returned.
3. The use of a smarter online form. Many enhancements were made to the online form to improve quality and make it easier for respondents to complete. These enhancements are detailed in the *Online form* section.

This method has sometimes been referred to as a 'mail-out' model, and it significantly reduced the number of Census field officers and the hours of Census field officer effort required to undertake Census enumeration. This contributed the majority of the over $100 million savings in the 2016 Census.

Approximately 80% of dwellings across Australia were, in the first instance, mailed a Census instruction letter which included a unique login number for the online form.

Adaptations to the standard mail-out model were developed to encourage timely response from people in areas where the standard approach may not have been as effective. These areas were identified based on a range of criteria, such as demographic characteristics, location, internet connectivity and the experience of previous Censuses. Some of these adaptions included:

- Mailing out a paper Census form in the first instance, rather than the instruction letter with an online login code; and
- Earlier follow-up by Census field officers in these areas for households that had not returned their form after Census night.

In the remaining areas of Australia, a more traditional delivery approach (the 'drop off' approach) was used with Census Field Officers delivering materials to each dwelling, enabling householders to either complete their form online or mail back a paper form. In these areas, the Field Officers attempted to make contact with householders when dropping off the form, only making further visits to dwellings that have not participated.

The information on each household were received from Census Field Officers using handheld devices, call centre agents receiving public enquiries, receipt of completed online and paper Census forms. This information provided the ability to monitor progress on a near real-time basis and was used to highlight areas of lower response, or any other issue, so that alternative strategies could be enacted quickly to respond to these problems as they arose. Progress was monitored at small area levels, allowing varied strategies to be implemented to encourage response and increase data quality. In previous Censuses, collection of field information was paper based with hand-held devices used for the first time in the 2016 Census.

The collection methodology is described in more detail in Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016.

Special strategies

As in previous Censuses, in 2016 there were a range of approaches used for collecting information from specific population groups. These approaches were designed in consultation and collaboration with relevant communities and/or service providers to ensure the coverage of all people in Australia (including these specific populations) was as complete as possible.

Special strategies were developed to optimise accessibility and inclusion of the following groups:

- remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
- defence personnel;
- people with disabilities;
- people experiencing homelessness;
- people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- People who were in non-private dwellings on Census night (hotels, hospitals, etc.)
- people travelling or away from their home on Census night;
- people living in mining camps and fly-in/fly-out workers; and
- older Australians.

Each of these strategies had one or more of the following components:

Specialised Field Staff: Field staff were employed to undertake specialist collection tasks. For example, locating hard-to-find populations, managing the distribution and collection of forms in complex housing establishments, or conducting interviews with respondents. A key objective when employing these field staff was to select people that were trusted by and knowledgeable of the people to be counted under this strategy.

Alternative Census forms: Alternative Census forms were used as part of some strategies. An Interviewer Household Form was used in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and in some urban areas. In some areas, a shortened version of the Census form was used to interview people sleeping rough as part of the Homelessness Enumeration Strategy. Forms were also available with large print, in Braille and translated into Auslan. The online Census form was certified as being accessible to Level AA, and tested with screen-readers and other assistive technologies.

Targeted communication: The ABS recognises that some people have difficulty or face barriers to completing the Census. For example, they might be away from home on Census night, live in a remote area or have difficulties understanding English. To overcome these barriers, a range of targeted communication strategies were developed to enable everyone to participate in the 2016 Census. Census promotional and instructional materials were translated into a number of different languages, whilst a phone based translation service was also provided. The 2016 communications campaign holds more information about these strategies.

Community engagement: The ABS engaged with both national and local community organisations and stakeholders in order to understand the support needs of different communities, provide information on the importance of participation in the Census and to assist with completing Census forms. Census management offices were established in each State and Territory, as well as regional District Managers and Local Engagement Managers.

Planning and Testing

With such a large change made to the method for collecting information from the public, the ABS undertook a comprehensive testing program. A series of tests were performed leading up to the 2016 Census;

- In 2012, a test involving 8,000 dwellings in Canberra and surrounding areas was used to understand and test the mail-out model. In addition, focus groups, in-depth interviews and online surveys were used to understand how people would respond to receiving information by mail.
- In 2013, a test involving 20,000 dwellings around Geelong was undertaken with the aim of understanding casual workforce and digital operational management.
- In 2014, a test involving 100,000 dwelling in Adelaide, Albany and Perth sought to inform on the readiness of processes, systems and infrastructure, measure the coverage quality of the Address Register and understand likely public behaviour in 2016.
- In 2015, two tests were undertaken (involving 10,000 and 35,000 dwellings) to shortlist and identify the most effective design of household contact materials that were developed in partnership with CSIRO.

International Review

In addition to a rigorous testing program, the new method was informed by the best practices in Census taking around the world. The ABS engaged in a number of working groups and discussions with a range of countries to collaborate, share ideas and learnings, and refine the new approach. In April 2014, respected Census practitioners from the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand, along with ABS Census counterparts who worked on the 2006 and 2011 Australian Censuses, undertook a review of the ABS's plans and preparations for the 2016 Census. This review endorsed the new approach to the Census and provided valuable feedback, such as to make more use of mail when making contact with the public, and adopt more tailored approaches for particular areas or population groups.

Census forms

There were a number of ways information was collected from the Australian public. For most people, information was returned to the ABS via either an online form or a paper form. For some people the most effective way to collect their information was through other administrative sources.

While the topics collected through the 2016 Census were unchanged from 2011, there were some minor changes to the questions and supporting text. The changes were implemented to make the form easier to complete and to optimise the quality of the data produced. The changes were designed based on an evaluation of the results of the 2011 Census, the public consultation process and the 2016 Census testing program. More information on the topic consultation and determination process can be found in Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016.

Online form

The 2016 Census online form was improved greatly from previous Censuses. Developments were made to make the form simpler for people to use and faster to complete. The improvements included;

- Tailoring questions to the respondent with the specific aim to increase accuracy. After a respondent reported their name, subsequent questions were automatically populated to bring greater clarity. For example, the question may be: Where does "*person name, eg Jo Bloggs*" usually live?
- Undertaking data checks and providing feedback to the respondent. For example, the respondent was asked to double check unlikely age responses in order to identify typing errors and asked to complete some questions if they were left blank.
- Introducing targeted supplementary questions. A series of supplementary questions were triggered when particular responses were provided. For example, if a response of "teacher" was provided to the occupation question, a supplementary question was asked to determine more details about the type of teacher for more detailed occupation coding.
- Sequencing respondents to only the questions relevant to them based on information they have provided. For example, if a respondent reported that they were not in the labour force, they were sequenced out of questions relating to labour force.
- Designed to adapt to and be easily usable on tablets and smart phones, not just on desktop and laptop computers.

The improved online form significantly reduced the time taken by the average household to complete the Census, with the average form in 2016 taking 26 minutes compared to 37 minutes for the paper form. The online Census also delivered higher quality data.

Paper forms

The paper household form and personal form (available from the Downloads tab) were very similar to those used in previous Censuses. However, in 2016 the front page of the paper forms were given a new look, incorporating instructions on how to complete the Census online.

Other versions of paper forms were used for areas or populations where a different approach was required. For people experiencing homelessness, field officers used Special Short Forms to collect their information. For people living in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, households had the option to provide information directly to a field officer using an Interviewer Household Form, or could complete their own paper or online form.

Other

In some cases, the most effective and efficient way of collecting information for people was by using available administrative data. Examples of this are where people were on expedition to the Australian Antarctic base, where people were in immigration detention centres, and where people were in prisons or other correctional institutions.

How people in each state completed their Census

Nearly two in every three (63.3%) people in private dwellings completed their Census form online, an increase from less than two in every five (37.9%) people in the 2011 Census.

A slightly lower proportion of private dwellings (58.8%) submitted their Census information using the online form, suggesting that larger households were more likely to use the online form. There has been increasing support from households across Australia using the online form since the introduction of it in the 2006 Census.

Mode of response for responding occupied private dwellings by state and territory

		2006	2011	2016
New South Wales	Online form	10.7%	35.5%	60.0%
	Paper form	89.3%	64.5%	40.0%
Victoria	Online form	10.4%	32.7%	58.9%
	Paper form	89.6%	67.3%	41.1%
Queensland	Online form	10.8%	34.0%	58.3%
	Paper form	89.2%	66.0%	41.7%
South Australia	Online form	8.4%	30.7%	52.0%
	Paper form	91.6%	69.3%	48.0%
Western Australia	Online form	11.7%	37.1%	61.5%
	Paper form	88.3%	62.9%	38.5%
Tasmania	Online form	8.3%	31.1%	45.0%
	Paper form	91.7%	68.9%	55.0%
Northern Territory	Online form	9.5%	33.8%	49.4%
	Paper form	90.5%	66.2%	50.6%
Australian Capital Territory	Online form	17.8%	46.3%	78.9%
	Paper form	82.2%	53.7%	21.1%
Australia*	Online form	10.6%	34.3%	58.8%
	Paper form	89.4%	65.7%	41.2%

* Includes Other Territories

The majority of people in non-private dwellings submitted their Census information using a paper form. While this has been the case since the 2006 Census there has been an increase across many States and Territories in the uptake of the online form option by people staying in non-private dwellings on Census night.

Mode of response for people enumerated in non-private dwellings by state and territory

		2006	2011	2016
New South Wales	Online form	1.1%	7.9%	10.3%
	Paper form	98.9%	92.1%	89.7%
Victoria	Online form	1.0%	5.4%	9.3%
	Paper form	99.0%	94.6%	90.7%
Queensland	Online form	1.0%	6.1%	8.4%
	Paper form	99.0%	93.9%	91.6%
South Australia	Online form	1.8%	11.5%	9.1%
	Paper form	98.2%	88.5%	90.9%
Western Australia	Online form	1.2%	5.6%	8.4%
	Paper form	98.8%	94.4%	91.6%
Tasmania	Online form	0.8%	12.5%	10.0%
	Paper form	99.2%	87.5%	90.0%
Northern Territory	Online form	0.9%	3.4%	8.4%
	Paper form	99.1%	96.6%	91.6%
Australian Capital Territory	Online form	2.6%	25.3%	19.5%
	Paper form	97.4%	74.7%	80.5%
Australia*	Online form	1.2%	7.3%	9.5%
	Paper form	98.8%	92.7%	90.5%

* Includes Other Territories

How culturally and linguistically diverse communities completed their Census

People born outside Australia were more likely to participate online (68.6% for those in private dwellings) than people born in Australia (61.0%). Of the top 10 countries of birth in Australia, the highest online response was from people born in China (90.0%) and India (85.4%).

Mode of response for people* by their country of birth

	Paper response	Online response
Australia	39.0%	61.0%
England	37.4%	62.6%
New Zealand	35.9%	64.1%
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	10.0%	90.0%
India	14.6%	85.4%
Philippines	25.2%	74.8%
Vietnam	20.3%	79.7%
Italy	49.2%	50.8%

South Africa	19.8%	80.2%
Malaysia	17.6%	82.4%

*Persons in private dwellings only.

People who only spoke English at home were the least likely to participate online (59.9%), whereas people who spoke a language other than English and could not speak English at all were the most likely to complete the online form (82.9%).

Mode of response for people* by language spoken at home and proficiency in English

	Paper response	Online response
Speaks English only	40.1%	59.9%
Speaks other language and speaks English: Very well	23.4%	76.6%
Speaks other language and speaks English: Well	23.3%	76.7%
Speaks other language and speaks English: Not well	24.6%	75.4%
Speaks other language and speaks English: Not at all	17.1%	82.9%

*Persons in private dwellings only.

How different ages completed their Census

There was little difference in online response rates between ages 0 – 49 years.

The online response rate reduces in older age groups, however the majority of people aged 60-69 years (52.2%) participated online and more than one in four of those aged 80 years and over (28.3%) were counted in an online form. This age group's online participation increased by the greatest proportion in 2016 with the online response rate increasing 225%.

Mode of response for people* by age group

	2011 Online Response	2016 Online Response	Change	Percentage Increase
0-9 years	45.9%	69.4%	23.6%	51%
10-19 years	41.4%	68.1%	26.7%	65%
20-29 years	43.3%	71.9%	28.6%	66%
30-39 years	46.7%	71.8%	25.1%	54%
40-49 years	40.7%	67.1%	26.4%	65%
50-59 years	34.7%	60.9%	26.2%	75%
60-69 years	26.3%	52.2%	25.9%	99%
70-79 years	14.6%	38.8%	24.2%	167%
80 years and over	8.7%	28.3%	19.6%	225%

*Persons in private dwellings only.

Turning your information into Census data

Turning your information into Census data

The information provided on the Census form goes through a series of steps before it is ready to be released as statistics in a variety of products and articles. Typically, it takes around ten months from the date of Census night to release of detailed data from the Census. For the 2016 Census there was the earliest release ever of information from the Census in April 2017 (eight months after the Census). This release provided a preview of key characteristics of a typical Australian in 2016, and the typical person in each State and Territory.

This diagram illustrates the path that the information goes through as it is processed prior to release.
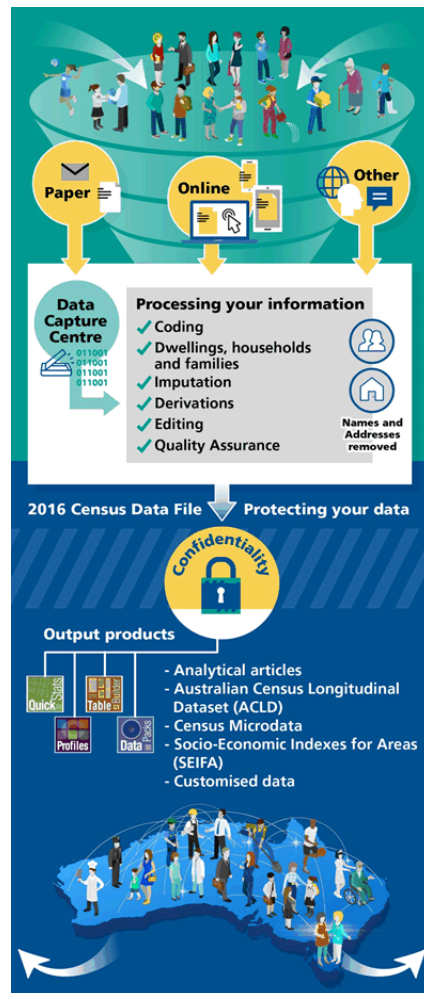
Processing your information

The diagram above shows the different pathways for the different types of forms.

Processing the information received from each person and household in Australia includes many steps, from receipt of online or paper forms through to creating a final set of Census data that can be used to create a range of products and articles for publication.

Online forms and data from administrative files were able to be loaded directly into the system used to process Census data.

Paper forms needed to undertake an extra step in their processing and usually travelled via Australia Post trucks to the ABS' Secure Data Capture Centre located in Dandenong, Victoria.

Data Capture

The Data Capture Centre received and processed all of the **paper** Census forms as they were submitted. This included:

- confirming receipt of forms
- opening envelopes and preparing the forms for scanning
- scanning the forms and converting it to electronic data
- repairing information not able to be captured accurately through scanning or to transcribe information from field officer materials.

The Data Capture Centre was also responsible for the secure destruction of all paper forms and other materials once the information was captured.

As the information progresses through the processing system it undergoes a number of different processes to help turn it into useful data, including coding, imputation, derivations, editing and data assurance.

Coding

Any Census questions that allows a response to be written or typed by respondents, such as questions about occupation, industry, language spoken at home, birthplace, usual address and ancestry, require coding to the correct category in the relevant standard classifications. The classifications for each of these can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary. There are three types of coding;

- Automatic – most responses have sufficient information for a computer system to code directly to the classification without clerical involvement

- Computer assisted – where programs are used to help define the information to a level of detail able to be coded to the classification

- Manual – where Census coding staff review the information provided to determine the best fit to the classification

Imputation

Sometimes the ABS uses a statistical process called 'Imputation'. This is a process that adds information to some of the data where it is deemed to be missing. There are two instances where the process of imputation is used in the Census;

1. **Where no Census form has been returned for a dwelling that is identified by a Census Field Officer to have been occupied on Census night.**
   In this case, people are imputed into the dwelling.
   The numbers and key demographic characteristics (age, sex, marital status and usual address) for people imputed into non-responding *private dwellings* are determined by using information from the responses that people provided in similar dwellings in the area*.
   The numbers and key demographic characteristics for people imputed into *non-private dwellings* (hotels, boarding houses, etc.) are determined by using information from people who did respond within the same dwelling and aggregate information provided by the non-private dwelling.
2. **Where people have returned a form but not responded to all the questions.**

In this case, only information for the key demographic items (age, sex, marital status and place of usual residence) are imputed.

For more information about imputation please refer to the 2016 Census Dictionary.

* This is a change in 2016. In 2011, for some non-responding private dwellings Census Field Officers were able to obtain an estimate of the numbers of males and females staying in the dwelling and this was used as credible information to draw upon during the imputation process. This was not available in 2016 under the new collection method.

Derivations

In some cases the responses from one or more questions are used to derive the value for particular variables. For example, where people have provided only their date of birth (but not their age), their age is calculated (or derived) from their date of birth. Another example is where responses to labour force status and relationship in household are used to derive a variable that describes the labour force status of parents.

Households and families

The information provided about an individual's relationship with other people in the household was used to create a classification of their family and household unit (for example, couples with or without children, or single parent families, people living alone or group households). Information provided about any people temporarily absent from the household on Census night also contributed to the formation of the family and household classifications.

Editing

There are a small number of common sense rules that are applied to the information provided by respondents to ensure coherent and consistent output data. These edits are limited to where the answers to different questions for the same person conflict with each other according to Census definitions. For example, if someone mistakenly states that they are 5 years old and that they are also in a registered marriage their record is flagged for investigation and resolution to ensure it complies with the definitions of these items (please refer to each data item in the 2016 Census Dictionary for information about each item and it's applicable population).

Data Assurance

Throughout processing, a number of checks are undertaken to ensure that the data are coherent, consistent and an accurate representation of the responses received. These checks included;

- Comparison of the data with previous Censuses

- Comparison of the data with other sources of information including Survey of Income and Housing, Migration data, and Building Approvals data.

- Looking for and verifying expected changes in the data with real world changes (for example, where new suburbs have been created between Censuses, or where natural disasters impacted dwelling numbers in specific areas).

The work undertaken to quality assure the data is used to inform individual quality statements for each of the data item (refer to Data Quality Statements in the Understanding the data chapter of this publication).

For more information about Managing Census Quality please refer to the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Creating a data file

After every individual's information has gone through all the processes outlined above it is brought together into one data file. This data file can then be used to create articles and various output products which the public can access to look at and understand Census data. It is also the step where confidentiality, or protection of respondents' data, is applied, including the removal of names and addresses.

Confidentiality – protecting your data

As with all previous Censuses, the ABS takes steps to ensure all data is kept confidential. The ABS is committed to protecting the personal information it collects. Not only does the ABS have strong legislative protections that safeguard the secrecy of an individual's information, we have a proud 100-year history of maintaining community trust in the way it collects, uses, discloses and stores personal information collected in the Census.

What does Confidentiality mean?
Confidentiality is about ensuring the personal information the ABS has collected is kept secret. The ABS uses a number of processes and methods to ensure the information released is consistent with our secrecy obligations. The ABS never has and never will release identifiable Census data. Key measures to safeguard information include strong encryption of data, restricted access on a need-to-know basis and monitoring of staff data access, including regular audits.

In accordance with the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* all Census data, including in QuickStats, Community Profiles, DataPacks and TableBuilder, is subjected to a confidentiality process called perturbation before release. This includes the information found in Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census and all publications that use Census data. This confidentiality process is undertaken to stop the release of information that may allow for the identification of particular individuals, families, households, or businesses.

Perturbation

The ABS has developed a technique to adjust counts to maintain confidentiality of information. This technique, known as perturbation, makes small adjustments to all counts - including totals - to prevent any identifiable data about individuals being released. These adjustments result in small introduced random errors and can mean that the rows and columns of a table do not sum to the displayed totals. However, the confidentiality technique is applied in a controlled manner that ensures the information value of the table as a whole is not significantly affected. Further information on the methodology of perturbation can be found in this paper.

Perturbation can be a source of frustration to users because rows and columns do not add to totals, but this technique is implemented to protect personal information. Most tables reporting basic statistics will not show significant discrepancies due to perturbation. However, as the degree of complexity of a table increases, the need for perturbation remains and it will continue to be used in the release of 2016 Census data.

For 2006 and 2011 Census data, an additional 'additivity step' was applied that made further small adjustments to each table to ensure rows and columns added to totals. This extra adjustment meant that comparisons between tables which contained similar data items had minor discrepancies. In addition, as the tables at different geographic levels are adjusted independently, tables at the higher geographic level may not be equal to the sum of the tables for the component geographic units. For 2016 Census data this additivity step has been removed in order to address these inconsistencies. For consistency and interpretability, the 2006 and 2011 data that appears in the following 2016 products have been re-calculated without additivity - Time Series Community Profile, DataPacks and the time series comparisons in QuickStats.

Interpreting the data

Perturbation has very little impact on Census data.

This is because it is applied consistently to the data so the same information will always have the same adjustment applied, and it is very small in magnitude. For example, a count of 15-24 year old males in New South Wales will have the same perturbation applied regardless of how a table with this data is constructed. However, the count in QuickStats may in rare cases differ marginally from the count in Community Profiles and DataPacks because the data in these products are recoded for presentation purposes.

The best number to use will always be the count that most directly corresponds to the information you require. It is not recommended that you derive information by summing across a row or down a column, as this increases the instances where perturbation may impact on the output. For instance, if you are interested in the count of 15-24 year old males in New South Wales, the total count will be the best figure to use, not the sum in individual years of males in New South Wales.

When calculating proportions, percentages or ratios from cross-classified or small area tables, the random adjustments introduced by perturbation can be ignored except when very small counts are involved, in which case the impact on percentages and ratios can be relatively significant. No reliance should be placed on small counts (that is, counts of 20 or less). Aside from the effects of the confidentiality process, Census non-response and possible respondent and processing errors have greatest relative impact on these small counts.

With the removal of the additivity step for 2016 Census data, comparisons over time should be made using the 2016 time series products where possible. Comparisons between 2011 QuickStats and 2016 QuickStats will compare one product where additivity has been applied and another where it hasn't. Whilst this will not have a significant impact on the differences observed over time, the most correct approach is to use the 2016 time series products. The 2011 Census data products will not be re-released with the additivity step removed.

Output products

The 2016 Census data is released through a variety of products with different degrees of detail and complexity.

QuickStats is a fast, simple way for users to understand an area at a glance and is intended for anyone wanting quick summary information. *Available June 27th 2017*

Community Profiles are excellent tools for researching, planning and analysing geographic areas for a number of social, economic and demographic variables. *Available June 27th 2017*

TableBuilder allows users to build their own tables using Census data items. It is designed for users who have knowledge of Census concepts and some experience using Census data. *Available July 4th 2017*

Census DataPacks contain comprehensive data about people, families and dwellings for all available geographic areas, with associated Geographic Information System digital boundary files. *Available July 12th 2017*

Analytical articles use Census data to explore a wide range of topics, such as cultural diversity, same-sex families, migration flows, the ageing population and more. *Available progressively from June 27th 2017*

Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACLD) – The second issue of the ACLD brings together a five per cent random sample of data from the 2006, 2011 and 2016 Censuses to create a research tool for exploring how Australian society is changing over time. *Available February 2018.*

Census Microdata, for advanced users of Census data, is released under strict access conditions. A Census Sample File is made available containing a small, random sample of households and non-private dwellings that has been confidentialised to protect the privacy and security of personal data. It will contain Census characteristics for person, family and dwelling variables. *Available 2018*

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) – SEIFA use Census data to rank areas in Australia according to relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. *Available March 2018*

Customised data – ABS analysts can extract Census data to your unique requirements and provide data in a range of formats to meet your needs. This service is available to anyone. Charges do apply. The ABS is taking orders now for Census data. Call 1300 135 070 to discuss your Census data needs.

Phased release of variables

There are two main phases to release all Census data items.

The first release phase includes the majority of data items and is available on June 27th 2017.

The second release phase includes employment, qualifications and population mobility (transport and previous address) and will be available in October 2017. This type of information needs extra time to process because of its complexity and will be released through further additions to Quickstats,

Community Profiles, TableBuilder and DataPacks.

Details about the availability of data items is listed in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Census release schedule 2017
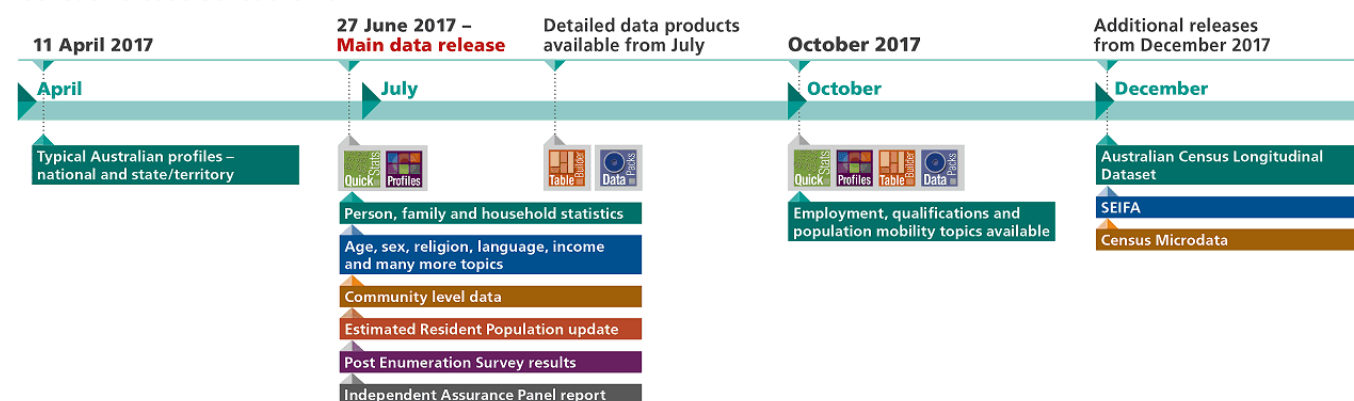
Uses of Census Data

Census is the definitive and often only open source of data on small population groups and small geographic areas across the whole of Australia. Data collected in the 2016 Census will underpin $500 billion of funding distribution over the next five years. It's also critical to the setting of Commonwealth, state and local electoral boundaries. Census data is also a key data source for homelessness estimates, research, policy development, service delivery and evaluation.

Data Integration

While Census Data has value in its own right, when it is linked to other datasets it provides fresh new insights into policy issues.

Since 2006, the ABS has enhanced the value of Census data through integrating unit record data with other ABS and non-ABS datasets to create new datasets for statistical and research purposes. Data integration will continue to be a central element of the Census and is an increasingly important element of effectively and efficiently delivering the broader ABS work program.

Previous integration initiatives undertaken by the ABS have successfully demonstrated that linking Census data with other datasets provides new insights into areas and groups of interest within Australian society, such as education, migrants and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. These initiatives have contributed to a richer

statistical view of Australian society and an improved evidence base for decision making for the community, researchers and policy makers, in a cost effective way.

The 2011 Census data integration projects have demonstrated the potential of data integration to replace direct collection, to develop new datasets (including longitudinal datasets) and to improve the quality of key estimates derived from administrative sources. These projects included the creation of the Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, the 2011 Census to Vocational Education and Training in Schools dataset, the Australian Census Longitudinal Dataset (ACLD) and the Indigenous Mortality Project. The initial release of the ACLD after the 2011 Census followed the journeys of around one million people across the 2006 and 2011 Censuses and created a research tool for exploring how Australian society is changing over time. Following completion of 2016 Census processing, the ACLD will be extended to include the 2016 Census and will offer insights into the dynamics and transitions that drive social and economic change over time, as well as providing insights into how these vary for diverse population groups and geographies. For more information on 2016 data integration, please refer to Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016.

The integration of 2016 Census data with other datasets will continue the production of new statistical outputs and enduring datasets, whilst keeping the privacy and confidentiality of all Australians at the centre of all stages of these projects. All personal information used in the Census and data integration projects is kept secure and confidential, in keeping with legislative requirements and ABS policies. For further information, see the section on Legal authority, confidentiality and privacy in the Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, 2016 publication.

Census Time Capsule

The 2016 Census again gave people the option to have their complete Census responses held securely by the National Archives of Australia for 99 years before being released for use by future generations of family historians and other researchers. The personally-identified Census information held by the National Archives of Australia is not available for any purpose (including to courts and tribunals) within the 99 year closed access period.

For more information on this initiative, see the Census Time Capsule section in Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, 2016.

Understanding Census data quality

Understanding Census data quality

There are a number of ways in which the quality of Census data can be assessed. Response rates (for both dwellings and people) are measures that are used internationally and are an important part of understanding quality, as is item non-response. In addition, the Post Enumeration Survey provides an independent measure of Census coverage through its estimate of undercount and overcount.

The key indicators for the 2016 Census of Population and Housing support that the Census data is of high quality, with high response rates (95.1%) and low levels of net undercoverage (1.0%).

Dwelling response rate

The dwelling response rate measures the number of private dwellings that returned a completed Census form as a proportion of all private dwellings believed to be occupied on Census night. The dwelling response rate for the 2016 Census was 95.1%. In the 2011 Census this response rate was 96.5%, and in 2006 it was 95.8%. The table below provides a breakdown of dwelling response by state and territory across the last three Censuses.

The decline in the reported dwelling response between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses is partly due to changes in the collection method (see How we collected your information for more details) that resulted in an overestimate of the number of occupied private dwellings. As a result, this has led to a lowering of the overall dwelling response rate. Despite the slight decline, the dwelling response rate is very high, and will produce high quality data.

Dwelling response rate by State and Territory, 2006 - 2016

	2006	2011	2016
New South Wales	95.5%	96.4%	95.1%
Victoria	96.3%	96.8%	95.3%
Queensland	95.7%	96.4%	94.7%
South Australia	97.0%	97.5%	96.3%
Western Australia	95.1%	95.9%	94.6%
Tasmania	97.4%	97.8%	95.6%
Northern Territory	91.6%	92.4%	90.7%
Australian Capital Territory	96.3%	97.1%	95.8%
Australia*	95.8%	96.5%	95.1%

* Includes Other Territories

Dwelling response rate by State and Territory, 2006 - 2016
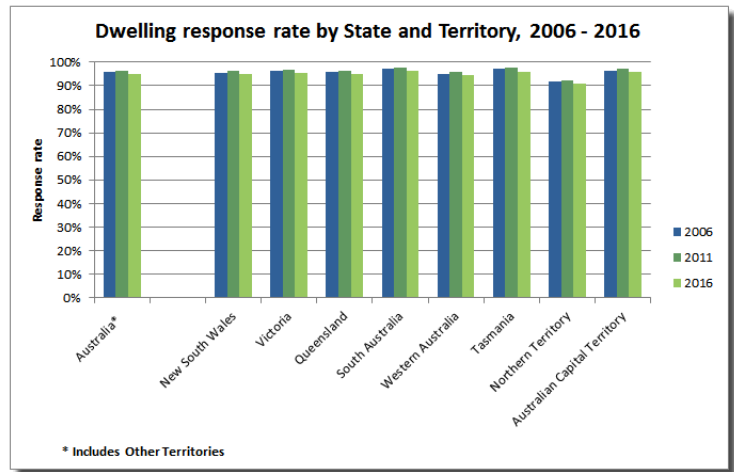
Person response rate

The person response rate measures how many people are included on a returned Census form as a proportion of all people (responding and non-responding) believed to be in Australia on Census night. Private dwellings believed to be occupied but did not return a Census form, contribute to the numbers of people who are considered non-responding. Similarly, people believed to be present in non-private dwellings (hotels, hospitals, boarding houses, etc.) but who did not complete a Census form contribute to the numbers of non-responding people.

There are a number of reasons why person non-response occurs in the Census. People may indicate a desire to mail back a Census form or to complete the form online but may forget to do so, some people may refuse to complete a Census form, and some may have been left off a form.

The dwelling response rate (outlined in the previous section) is only calculated for private dwellings, while the person response rate includes all people regardless of whether they are in a private or non-private dwelling,

The person response rate was 94.8% in the 2016 Census. In the 2011 Census it was 96.3% and in the 2006 Census is was 95.8%. Like dwelling responses rates, the over

identification of occupied homes have led to a lowering of the reported person response rate in 2016 compared to 2011 and 2006.

Where people are believed to have not responded to the Census, data are imputed for them (see Imputation section in Turning your information into Census data) including selected demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status and usual address. This ensures a full and accurate dataset is produced.

Person response rate by State and Territory, 2006 - 2016

	2006	2011	2016
New South Wales	95.7%	96.4%	95.0%
Victoria	96.4%	96.8%	95.2%
Queensland	95.5%	95.9%	94.2%
South Australia	97.1%	97.4%	96.1%
Western Australia	94.9%	95.2%	94.2%
Tasmania	97.3%	97.7%	95.5%
Northern Territory	91.9%	92.3%	89.4%
Australian Capital Territory	96.3%	96.7%	95.4%
Australia*	95.8%	96.3%	94.8%

* Includes Other Territories

Person response rate by State and Territory, 2006 - 2016
* Includes Other Territories
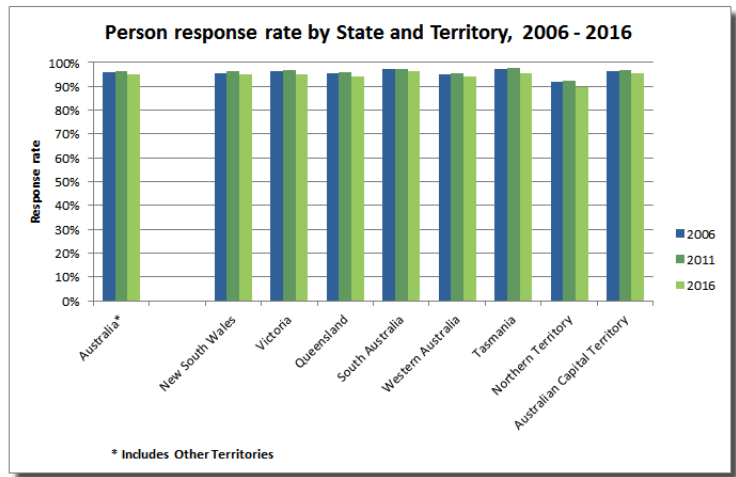
Item non-response rates

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. These people have records created for them (see Imputation section in the Turning your information into data chapter) and whilst a small number of data items are imputed for them (age, sex, marital status and usual address), the remaining data items are left as *not stated*.

The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). This is referred to as item non-response (excl. imputed persons).

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

This graph shows the contribution of imputed records to item non-response, using Country of Birth (BPLP) as an example.

Item non-response for Country of Birth (BPLP), 2006 - 2016
* Includes Other Territories
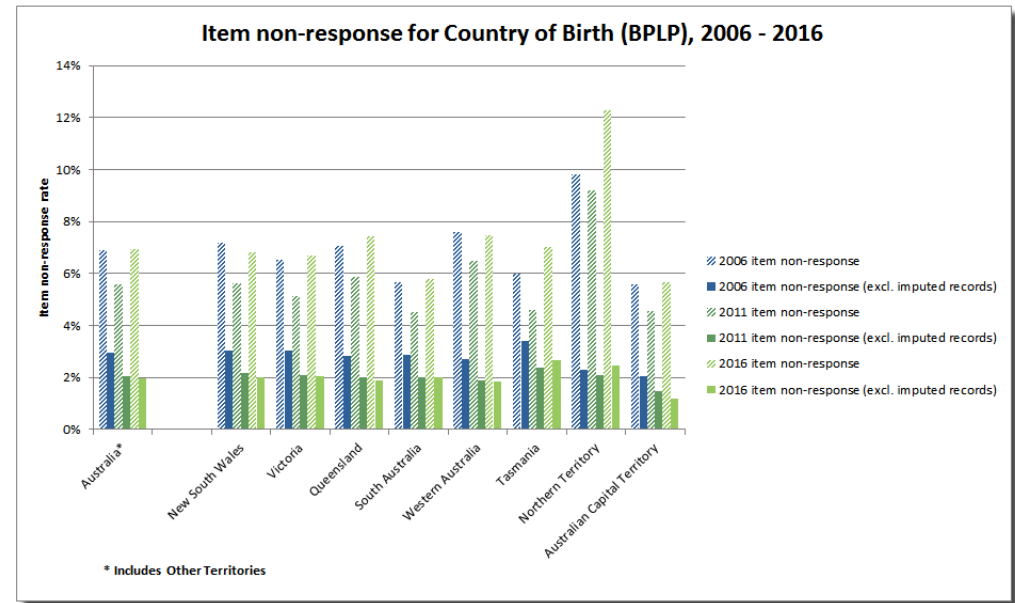
There is a marked difference between item non-response rates for people who completed their form online versus those who completed the paper form. The Census online form makes a subset of questions mandatory which means respondents cannot submit a blank answer to specific questions. The online form is also quicker to complete, and smart features such as using names to assist with subsequent questions and sequencing the respondent only to necessary questions makes the online form easier to complete. Through these factors, people responding online tend to answer more questions.

The increase in online participation in the 2016 Census has pleasingly reduced the number of questions left blank in completed Census forms.

This table shows item non-response (excluding imputed records) for Country of Birth and illustrates the majority contribution to non-response from paper form submissions.

Item non-response (excl. imputed records) by mode of response for Country of Birth (BPLP)

	Paper form	Online form
New South Wales	91.9%	8.1%
Victoria	93.0%	7.0%
Queensland	93.3%	6.7%
South Australia	95.1%	4.9%
Western Australia	92.1%	7.9%
Tasmania	97.2%	2.7%
Northern Territory	95.8%	4.1%
Australian Capital Territory	86.2%	13.8%
Australia*	92.9%	7.1%

* Includes Other Territories

Item non-response rates are available for each state and territory, and the whole of Australia (including Other Territories) in Item non-response.

The Post-Enumeration Survey

The Census Post Enumeration Survey (PES) is run shortly after each Census as a way to independently measure Census coverage. The PES determines how many people should have been counted in the Census, how many were missed (undercount) and how many were counted more than once or in error (overcount). While every effort is made to eliminate coverage errors in the Census, some undercount and overcount will inevitably occur. Net undercount for any category of person is the difference between the PES population estimate (i.e. estimate of the number of people who should have been counted in the Census) and the actual Census count.

The PES also provides an estimate of Census imputation error; i.e. the difference between the number of people imputed into non-responding dwellings during Census processing and the number of people who should have been counted in those dwellings. It also provides information on the characteristics of those in the population who have been missed or overcounted, including an indication of those characteristics which may have changed or been misclassified between the Census and PES.

Results from the PES are used for the following:

- Estimates of undercount and overcount provide users with an assessment of the completeness of Census counts and a measure of Census imputation performance. As such, undercount and overcount can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of Census collection procedures and data processing, so improvements can be made for future Censuses.
- Net undercount is a key component in rebasing the Estimated Resident Population (ERP) for 30 June of the Census year. Rebasing is done by adding the net undercount from PES to the new Census population counts, before applying further demographic adjustments in order to recalibrate ERP to the latest Census.

Please refer to Census of Population and Housing - Details of Undercount, 2016 for details.

The PES helps to measure the quality of the Census and ensure the quality of Australia's population estimates.

The net undercount rate in 2016 was 1.0% (equivalent to 226,407 persons; i.e. the PES population estimate was 226,407 more persons than was counted in the 2016 Census, compared with 1.7% in 2011. The lower net undercount rate in 2016 was driven by a large positive difference in the number of people who were counted on multiple Census forms or counted in error and in the number of persons imputed into non-responding Census dwellings in 2016, compared with 2011. These larger changes in overcount (including over-imputation in the Census) have offset the smaller positive difference in the number of people who were missed from responding Census dwellings.

The 2016 PES estimated a net undercount rate of 17.5% for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (equivalent to 137,750 persons who were missed in the Census). This is only slightly higher than 2011, which estimated a net undercount of 114,188 persons, or a rate of 17.2%.

For Country of birth, the net undercount rate for persons born overseas was lower in 2016 (7.0%) compared with 2011 (8.8%), while persons born in Australia had a higher net undercount rate (8.1% in 2016 compared with 6.6% in 2011). The largest changes in net undercount for the ten highest ranked countries (in terms of population residing in Australia) were for China (from 14.9% in 2011 to 6.2% in 2016), India (from 9.7% in 2011 to 5.0% in 2016) and the Philippines (from 9.1% in 2011 to 5.5% in 2016).

Census Independent Assurance Panel

An independent panel of eminent Australian and international statisticians, academics, and state government representatives was established to independently review and assure the quality of statistical outputs from the 2016 Census.

Overall, the panel found 2016 Census data to be fit for rebasing the Estimated Resident Population and having comparable quality to previous Australian Censuses and International Censuses. The panel concluded that 2016 Census data can be used with confidence.

Their report can be found here.

Quality Declaration

This quality declaration details how the Census addresses each of the elements of the ABS' quality framework, covering relevance, timeliness, accuracy, coherence, interpretability and accessibility.

Institutional environment

For information on the institutional environment of the ABS, including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

Relevance

The Australian Census of Population and Housing is the official count of population and dwellings and collects details of age, sex and other characteristics of the population.

The Census aims to measure the number and key characteristics of dwellings and people in Australia on Census Night. All people in Australia on Census Night are in scope, except foreign diplomats and their families. Visitors to Australia are counted regardless of how long they have been in the country or how long they plan to stay. Australian residents not in the country on Census Night are out of scope of the Census.

Topics collected by the Census change from time to time. There must be a demonstrated national need for Census data for policy development, planning and program monitoring. Details on the changing content of Censuses from 1911 to 2016 can be found on the downloads tab of Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016. A copy of the 2016 Census Household Form is included in the Appendix to the Census Dictionary, 2016 (cat. no. 2901.0).

While the range of topics covered in the 2016 Census was the same as for the 2011 Census, there were some changes in the way some questions were either asked or collected. Examples include: changing the question format for religious affiliation by moving 'No religion' to be the first response category; country of birth of mother and father questions were amended to allow respondents to provide details of the country of birth of their mother and father (where it is not Australia); the introduction of some targeted supplementary questions for occupation and industry on the online form; and changes to the collection of data related to dwellings for mail-out areas in line with establishment of the Address Register. Updated classifications were used for the coding of geographical units, occupation, industry, cultural and ethnic groups, language, religion and countries. For more detail see the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Timeliness

The *Census and Statistics Act 1905* requires the Australian Statistician to conduct a Census on a regular basis. Since 1961, a Census has been held every 5 years. The 2016 Census was the 17th national Census, and was held on the 9th August 2016.

For the 2016 Census there were three main releases:

- An early release of information in April 2017 (8 months after the Census). This release provided a preview of key characteristics of a 'typical' Australian at the national and state/territory level showing what has changed over time.
- The first comprehensive Census dataset was released in June 2017 and provided Community level Census data data for a wide range of topics, including information on small population groups and for small geographic areas such as Suburbs and Local Government Areas.
- Detailed Census data was released in October 2017 and contained data on employment, qualifications and population mobility, including journey to work and internal migration.

An additional wave of Census-related data will be released from 2018 onwards, adding further value to the main data releases in 2017.

Accuracy

The ABS aims to produce high quality data from the Census. To achieve this, extensive effort is put into Census form design, collection procedures and processing. There are four principal sources of error in Census data which quality management aims to reduce as much as possible; they are respondent error, processing error, partial or non-response and undercount. For more detail, see the 2016 Census Dictionary.

The Census is self-enumerated, and respondents sometimes do not return a Census form or fail to answer every applicable question. Persons are imputed into dwellings for which no form was returned, together with some demographic characteristics for these people (age, sex, marital status and usual address). These same demographic characteristics are imputed if not provided by respondents on a returned form. However, the majority of output classifications include a 'Not Stated' category to record the level of non-response for that data item. Data quality statements are produced for each Census data item and include the non-response rate for each variable and a brief outline of any known data quality problems, as well as a comparison with the non-response rate for the 2011 Census. Data quality statements are included in Understanding the data.

Coherence

It is important for Census data to be comparable and compatible with previous Censuses and also with other data produced by the ABS and wider community. The ABS, and the Census, uses Australian standard classifications, where available and appropriate, to provide data comparability across statistical collections. These include, for example, standards for occupation and geographic areas. For more details regarding classifications used in the Census, see About Census Classifications in the 2016 Census Dictionary, and the relevant entries for each classifications.

Interpretability

The Census provides a wealth of data about the Australian community through a suite of standard products, and data customised for individual requirements. The 2016 Census Dictionary is a comprehensive reference guide designed to assist users to determine and specify their data requirements, and to understand the concepts underlying the data. It provides details of classifications used and a glossary of definitions of Census terms.

Accessibility

An extensive range of online products are available on the ABS website. ABS works to ensure all products are as accessible and usable as possible, undertaking testing of colours, images, navigation and language.

If the Census information you require is not available as a standard product or service, then ABS Consultancy Services can help you with customised services to suit your needs. Contact 1300 135 070 from within Australia or +61 2 9268 4909 from overseas for all your Census and other information needs. Alternatively, please email client.services@abs.gov.au. Your inquiry will be referred to an ABS Consultant who will contact you to analyse your needs, discuss options, and provide you with an obligation free quote.

Item non-response

Item non-response rates

This page contains the Person and Dwelling item non-response rates for each State and Territory. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Please use the following links to access the non-response rates:

Australia
Indigenous
New South Wales
Victoria
Queensland
South Australia
Western Australia
Tasmania
Northern Territory
Australian Capital Territory

Australia

Item non-response rates for first release person variables, Australia (a)

	2011 Place of enumeration (b)		2016 Place of Enumeration (b)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (c)	4.1%	0.5%	5.5%	0.5%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (d)	6.9%	3.4%	7.0%	2.0%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	6.0%	2.5%	6.9%	1.9%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	6.3%	2.8%	6.7%	1.7%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	6.2%	2.7%	6.9%	1.9%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	5.7%	2.2%	7.1%	2.2%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	5.6%	2.1%	6.9%	2.0%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	6.2%	2.9%	6.8%	2.0%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (e)	8.4%	5.0%	8.6%	3.5%
Indigenous Status (INGP)	4.9%	1.4%	6.0%	1.0%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	5.0%	1.5%	6.5%	1.5%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (f)	6.0%	2.9%	8.0%	3.1%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(c)	3.9%	0.3%	5.4%	0.4%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(c)	3.8%	0.2%	5.3%	0.2%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(c)(e)	5.2%	0.9%	6.8%	0.7%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (g)	8.6%	5.2%	9.1%	4.3%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (h)	18.3%	7.6%	27.6%	7.8%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(c)(i)	-	-	5.7%	0.7%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (e)	7.9%	4.4%	9.0%	3.9%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (j)	4.4%	4.4%	2.7%	2.7%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (e)	8.5%	5.0%	8.9%	3.8%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (e)	7.8%	4.3%	8.3%	3.2%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (e)	8.5%	5.0%	8.8%	3.7%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (e)	8.2%	4.7%	8.2%	3.1%
Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP) (k)	4.5%	4.5%	3.5%	3.5%

Footnotes
a) Australia includes Other Territories
b) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
c) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.
d) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).
e) Persons aged 15 years and over.
f) Females aged 15 years and over.
g) Answering this Census question is optional.
h) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.
i) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.
j) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.
k) Persons born overseas, but excludes overseas visitors.

Item non-response rates for second release person variables, Australia (a)

	2011 Place of enumeration (b)		2016 Place of Enumeration (b)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EEET) (c)	-	-	7.5%	2.4%
Hours Worked (HRSP)/Hours Worked (ranges) (HRWRP) (c)	2.2%	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (c)	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (c)	5.6%	2.0%	6.7%	1.5%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (c)	1.5%	1.5%	1.0%	1.0%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (c)	2.2%	2.2%	2.0%	2.0%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (c)	2.6%	2.9%	2.8%	2.8%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (c)	1.7%	1.7%	1.2%	1.2%
Occupation (OCCP) (c)	0.8%	0.8%	1.0%	0.7%
Place of Usual Residence 1 year ago (PUR1P) (d)	5.3%	1.8%	8.6%	3.7%
Place of Usual Residence 5 years ago (PUR5P) (e)	6.5%	3.0%	8.0%	3.0%
Place of Work (POWP) - not stated only (c)	2.5%	2.5%	5.1%	5.1%
Place of Work (POWP) - total imputed rate where POW was partially/completely not stated (c)	-	-	10.0%	10.0%
Public/Private Sector (GNGP) (c)	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (c)	-	-	1.0%	1.0%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (d)	5.1%	1.6%	8.3%	3.5%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (e)	6.0%	2.5%	7.3%	2.4%

Footnotes
a) Australia includes Other Territories
b) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
c) Persons aged 15 years and over.
d) Persons aged 1 year and over.
e) Persons aged 5 years and over.

Item non-response rates for first release person variables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Australia (a)

	2011 Place of enumeration (b)			2016 Place of Enumeration (b)		
	Persons for whom question was relevant	Persons for whom there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Persons for whom question was relevant	Persons for whom there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (c)	548,370	8,348	1.5%	649,171	11,544	1.8%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (d)	548,370	41,333	7.5%	649,171	32,852	5.1%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	548,370	33,508	6.1%	649,171	26,766	4.1%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	548,370	34,018	6.2%	649,171	30,501	4.7%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	548,370	34,929	6.4%	649,171	31,958	4.9%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	548,370	33,872	6.2%	649,171	39,547	6.1%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	548,370	18,202	3.3%	649,171	19,558	3.0%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	548,370	37,400	6.8%	649,171	37,754	5.8%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (e)	351,283	37,874	10.8%	428,777	40,646	9.5%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	548,370	25,279	4.6%	649,171	30,525	4.7%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (f)	181,470	12,062	6.6%	219,663	16,164	7.4%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(c)	548,370	5,539	1.0%	649,171	5,951	0.9%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(c)	548,370	2,430	0.4%	649,171	3,121	0.5%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	73,422	1,415	1.9%	77,938	2,639	3.4%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(c)(g)	351,283	10,935	3.1%	428,777	12,983	3.0%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (f)	548,370	56,674	10.3%	649,171	48,670	7.5%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (g)	25,944	2,509	9.7%	29,901	2,092	7.0%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(c)(h)	-	-	-	649,171	7,207	1.1%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (e)	351,283	36,870	10.5%	428,777	42,744	10.0%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (i)	186,526	16,384	8.8%	223,204	12,374	5.5%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (e)	351,283	39,945	11.4%	428,777	43,012	10.0%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (e)	351,283	35,859	10.2%	428,777	37,147	8.7%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (e)	351,283	39,023	11.1%	428,777	40,523	9.5%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (e)	351,283	39,544	11.3%	428,777	38,165	8.9%

Footnotes
a) Australia includes Other Territories
b) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
c) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.
d) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).
e) Persons aged 15 years and over.
f) Females aged 15 years and over.
g) Answering this Census question is optional.
g) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.
h) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.
i) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.

Item non-response rates for person second release variables for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Australia (a)

	2011 Place of enumeration (b)			2016 Place of Enumeration (b)		
	Persons for whom question was relevant	Persons for whom there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Persons for whom question was relevant	Persons for whom there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Employment Type (EMTP) (c)	-	-	-	428,777	170,146	7.5%
Hours Worked (HRSP) (c)	147,708	6,846	4.6%	182,146	6,752	3.7%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (c)	147,708	3,966	2.7%	182,146	4,268	2.3%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (c)	351,281	17,227	4.9%	428,777	16,001	3.7%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (c)	147,708	4,538	3.1%	182,146	3,865	2.1%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (c)	95,024	5,948	6.3%	145,232	8,240	5.7%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (c)	95,024	4,828	5.1%	145,232	7,304	5.0%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (c)	8,900	565	6.3%	11,587	239	2.1%
Occupation (OCCP) (c)	147,708	3,012	2.0%	182,146	2,729	1.8%
Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago (PUR1P - SA2 Level) (d)	535,843	26,955	5.0%	635,814	45,078	7.1%
Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago (PUR5P - SA2 Level) (e)	480,952	38,420	8.0%	575,907	47,044	8.2%
Place of Work (POWP) (c)	147,708	6,634	4.5%	182,146	14,934	8.2%
Public/Private Employer Indicator (GNGP) (c)	147,708	3,885	2.6%	182,146	4,268	2.3%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (c)	-	-	-	182,146	2,819	1.5%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (d)	535,843	23,990	4.5%	635,814	39,219	6.2%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (e)	480,952	32,740	6.8%	575,907	37,380	6.5%

Footnotes
a) Australia includes Other Territories
b) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables

Item non-response rates for Dwelling variables, Australia (a)

	2011 Place of enumeration (b)			2016 Place of Enumeration (b)		
	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Dwelling Structure (STRD) (c)	9,117,032	10,927	0.1%	9,901,496	47,021	0.5%
Landlord type (LLDD) (d)	2,349,335	53,247	2.3%	2,606,630	47,044	1.8%
Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED) (e)	2,723,626	143,184	5.3%	2,871,413	121,910	4.2%
Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD) (f)	8,182,563	442,629	5.4%	8,861,623	654,208	7.4%
Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) (f)	8,182,563	534,127	6.5%	8,861,623	742,467	8.4%
Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD) (d)	2,349,335	89,179	3.8%	2,606,630	87,513	3.4%
Tenure type (TEND) (f)	8,182,563	495,324	6.1%	8,861,623	680,970	7.7%
Type of Internet Connection (NEDD) (f)	8,182,563	572,918	7.0%	8,861,623	677,222	7.6%
Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D) (f)	7,760,322	147,473	1.9%	8,286,077	509,668	6.2%
Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D) (f)	7,760,322	226,083	2.9%	8,286,077	240,750	2.9%

Footnotes
a) Australia includes Other Territories
b) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census night.
c) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings. Information is primarily sourced from the ABS Address Register. A Field Officer (but not householder), may also provide a response.
d) Occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes dwellings being occupied rent free.
e) Occupied private dwellings being purchased. Includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.
f) Includes all occupied private dwellings.

New South Wales

Item non-response rates for first release person variables, New South Wales

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (b)	4.1%	0.5%	5.5%	0.5%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (c)	6.9%	3.4%	7.0%	2.0%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	6.0%	2.5%	6.9%	1.9%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	6.3%	2.8%	6.7%	1.7%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	6.2%	2.7%	6.9%	1.9%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	5.7%	2.2%	7.1%	2.2%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	5.6%	2.1%	6.9%	2.0%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	6.2%	2.9%	6.8%	2.0%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (d)	8.4%	5.0%	8.6%	3.5%
Indigenous Status (INGP)	4.9%	1.4%	6.0%	1.0%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	5.0%	1.5%	6.5%	1.5%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (e)	6.0%	2.9%	8.0%	3.1%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(b)	3.9%	0.3%	5.4%	0.4%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(b)	3.8%	0.2%	5.3%	0.2%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(b)(d)	5.2%	0.9%	6.8%	0.7%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (f)	8.6%	5.2%	9.1%	4.3%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (g)	18.3%	7.6%	27.6%	7.8%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(b)(h)	-	-	5.7%	0.7%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (d)	7.9%	4.4%	9.0%	3.9%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (i)	4.4%	4.4%	2.7%	2.7%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (d)	8.5%	5.0%	8.9%	3.8%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (d)	7.8%	4.3%	8.3%	3.2%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (d)	8.5%	5.0%	8.8%	3.7%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (d)	8.2%	4.7%	8.2%	3.1%
Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP) (j)	4.5%	4.5%	3.5%	3.5%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.
c) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).
d) Persons aged 15 years and over.
e) Females aged 15 years and over.
f) Answering this Census question is optional.
g) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.
h) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.
i) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.
j) Persons born overseas, but excludes overseas visitors.

Item non-response rates for second release person variables, New South Wales

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EEET) (b)	-	-	7.4%	2.4%
Hours Worked (HRSP)/Hours Worked (ranges) (HRWRP) (b)	2.3%	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (b)	1.2%	1.2%	1.4%	1.4%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (b)	2.1%	5.6%	6.6%	1.5%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (b)	1.5%	1.5%	1.0%	1.0%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (b)	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (b)	3.6%	2.4%	2.9%	2.9%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (b)	1.7%	1.7%	1.2%	1.2%
Occupation (OCCP) (b)	0.8%	0.8%	1.1%	0.8%
Place of Usual Residence 1 year ago (PUR1P) (c)	1.8%	5.2%	8.4%	3.6%
Place of Usual Residence 5 years ago (PUR5P) (d)	2.9%	6.4%	7.7%	2.9%
Place of Work (POWP) - not stated only (b)	2.5%	2.5%	5.7%	5.7%
Place of Work (POWP) - total imputed rate where POW was partially/completely not stated (b)	-	-	11.4%	11.4%
Public/Private Sector (GNGP) (b)	1.2%	1.2%	1.4%	1.4%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (b)	-	-	1.0%	1.0%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (c)	1.6%	5.1%	8.2%	3.4%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (d)	2.5%	6.0%	7.2%	2.4%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) Persons aged 15 years and over.
c) Persons aged 1 year and over.
d) Persons aged 5 years and over.

Item non-response rates for Dwelling variables, New South Wales

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)			2016 Place of Enumeration (a)		
	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Dwelling Structure (STRD) (b)	2,864,532	4,486	0.2%	3,059,599	16,670	0.5%
Landlord type (LLDD) (c)	756,833	16,057	2.1%	839,525	14,443	1.7%
Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED) (d)	828,140	43,769	5.3%	844,378	37,416	4.4%
Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD) (e)	2,599,194	146,237	5.6%	2,774,855	207,051	7.5%
Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) (e)	2,599,194	177,599	6.8%	2,774,855	237,303	8.6%
Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD) (c)	756,833	27,838	3.7%	839,525	27,717	3.3%
Tenure type (TEND) (e)	2,599,194	162,549	6.3%	2,774,855	215,097	7.8%
Type of Internet Connection (NEDD) (e)	2,599,194	189,196	7.3%	2,774,855	214,796	7.7%
Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D) (e)	2,471,299	49,242	2.0%	2,604,314	162,201	6.2%
Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D) (e)	2,471,299	73,570	3.0%	2,604,314	77,994	3.0%

Footnotes

a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census night.
b) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings. Information is primarily sourced from the ABS Address Register. A Field Officer (but not householder), may also provide a response.
c) Occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes dwellings being occupied rent free.
d) Occupied private dwellings being purchased. Includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.
e) Includes all occupied private dwellings.

Victoria

Item non-response rates for first release person variables, Victoria

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (b)	3.6%	0.5%	5.1%	0.4%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (c)	6.4%	3.4%	6.5%	1.9%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	5.4%	2.4%	6.4%	1.8%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	5.8%	2.8%	6.2%	1.5%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	5.6%	2.6%	6.4%	1.7%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	5.1%	2.1%	6.7%	2.0%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	5.1%	2.1%	6.7%	2.0%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	5.8%	2.9%	6.4%	1.9%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (d)	8.0%	5.0%	8.1%	3.4%
Indigenous Status (INGP)	4.6%	1.5%	5.7%	1.1%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	4.5%	1.4%	6.0%	1.3%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (e)	5.7%	2.9%	7.8%	3.2%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(b)	3.3%	0.2%	5.0%	0.3%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(b)	3.3%	0.2%	4.9%	0.2%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(b)(d)	4.6%	0.8%	6.4%	0.7%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (f)	8.3%	5.3%	8.8%	4.3%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (g)	15.0%	7.0%	25.3%	7.2%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(b)(h)	-	-	5.4%	0.7%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (d)	7.6%	4.6%	8.6%	3.9%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (i)	4.5%	4.5%	2.7%	2.7%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (d)	8.1%	5.1%	8.4%	3.8%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (d)	5.9%	4.3%	7.8%	3.1%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (d)	8.1%	5.1%	8.3%	3.6%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (d)	7.8%	4.8%	7.7%	2.9%
Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP) (j)	4.3%	4.3%	3.5%	3.5%

Footnotes

a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.
c) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).
d) Persons aged 15 years and over.
e) Females aged 15 years and over.
f) Answering this Census question is optional.
g) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.
h) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.
i) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.
j) Persons born overseas, but excludes overseas visitors.

Item non-response rates for second release person variables, Victoria

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EEET) (b)	-	-	7.0%	2.2%
Hours Worked (HRSP)/Hours Worked (ranges) (HRWRP) (b)	2.2%	2.2%	1.9%	1.9%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (b)	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (b)	5.2%	2.0%	6.2%	1.4%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (b)	1.6%	1.6%	1.0%	1.0%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (b)	2.3%	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (b)	2.9%	2.1%	2.7%	2.7%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (b)	1.8%	1.8%	1.3%	1.3%
Occupation (OCCP) (b)	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Place of Usual Residence 1 year ago (PUR1P) (c)	4.7%	1.6%	8.1%	3.5%
Place of Usual Residence 5 years ago (PUR5P) (d)	5.8%	2.7%	7.3%	2.7%
Place of Work (POWP) - not stated only (b)	3.0%	3.0%	5.2%	5.2%
Place of Work (POWP) - total imputed rate where POW was partially/completely not stated (b)	-	-	10.3%	10.3%
Public/Private Sector (GNGP) (b)	1.1%	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (b)	-	-	1.0%	1.0%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (c)	4.5%	1.5%	7.9%	3.3%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (d)	5.4%	2.3%	6.9%	2.2%

Footnotes

a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) Persons aged 15 years and over.
c) Persons aged 1 year and over.
d) Persons aged 5 years and over.

Item non-response rates for Dwelling variables, Victoria

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)	2016 Place of Enumeration (a)

	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Dwelling Structure (STRD) (b)	2,277,970	1,018	0.0%	2,520,912	8,997	0.4%
Landlord type (LLDD) (c)	525,605	11,853	2.3%	616,985	10,692	1.7%
Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED) (d)	700,583	39,513	5.6%	750,389	34,949	4.7%
Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD) (e)	2,031,226	102,319	5.0%	2,242,283	159,284	7.1%
Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) (e)	2,031,226	126,196	6.2%	2,242,283	182,265	8.1%
Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD) (c)	525,605	20,191	3.8%	616,985	21,040	3.4%
Tenure type (TEND) (e)	2,031,226	118,652	5.8%	2,242,283	167,735	7.5%
Type of Internet Connection (NEDD) (e)	2,031,226	135,115	6.7%	2,242,283	165,836	7.4%
Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D) (e)	1,944,690	36,267	1.9%	2,112,706	128,922	6.1%
Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D) (e)	1,944,690	54,107	2.8%	2,112,706	60,813	2.9%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census night.
b) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings. Information is primarily sourced from the ABS Address Register. A Field Officer (but not householder), may also provide a response.
c) Occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes dwellings being occupied rent free.
d) Occupied private dwellings being purchased. Includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.
e) Includes all occupied private dwellings.

Queensland

Item non-response rates for first release person variables, Queensland

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (b)	4.5%	0.5%	6.0%	0.4%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (c)	7.3%	3.5%	7.6%	2.1%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	6.4%	2.5%	7.5%	2.0%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	6.6%	2.8%	7.3%	1.7%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	6.6%	2.7%	7.5%	1.9%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	6.1%	2.2%	7.7%	2.2%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	5.9%	2.0%	7.4%	1.9%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	6.5%	2.8%	7.3%	2.0%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (d)	8.6%	4.8%	9.1%	3.4%
Indigenous Status (INGP)	5.2%	1.3%	6.6%	1.0%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	5.4%	1.5%	7.0%	1.5%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (e)	6.2%	2.8%	8.3%	2.9%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(b)	4.4%	0.5%	6.1%	0.5%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(b)	4.2%	0.3%	5.9%	0.3%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(b)(d)	5.8%	0.9%	7.5%	0.7%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (f)	9.2%	5.4%	9.6%	4.2%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (g)	21.1%	8.0%	30.2%	8.3%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(b)(h)	-	-	6.3%	0.7%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (d)	8.3%	4.4%	9.5%	3.8%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (i)	4.4%	4.4%	2.6%	2.6%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (d)	8.8%	4.9%	9.5%	3.8%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (d)	8.2%	4.3%	8.9%	3.2%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (d)	8.9%	5.0%	9.3%	3.7%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (d)	8.4%	4.6%	8.8%	3.0%
Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP) (j)	4.7%	4.7%	3.5%	3.5%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
▫excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
▫excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
▫excludes non-applicable persons
b) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.
c) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).
d) Persons aged 15 years and over.
e) Females aged 15 years and over.
f) Answering this Census question is optional.
g) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.
h) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.
i) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.
j) Persons born overseas, but excludes overseas visitors.

Item non-response rates for second release person variables, Queensland

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EEET) (b)	-	-	8.1%	2.3%
Hours Worked (HRSP)/Hours Worked (ranges) (HRWRP) (b)	2.2%	2.2%	1.8%	1.8%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (b)	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (b)	6.0%	2.1%	7.3%	1.5%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (b)	1.4%	1.4%	0.9%	0.9%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (b)	2.3%	2.3%	1.9%	1.9%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (b)	2.9%	2.5%	2.8%	2.8%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (b)	1.5%	1.5%	1.1%	1.1%
Occupation (OCCP) (b)	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%
Place of Usual Residence 1 year ago (PUR1P) (c)	5.7%	1.8%	9.2%	3.8%
Place of Usual Residence 5 years ago (PUR5P) (d)	7.2%	3.3%	8.8%	3.3%
Place of Work (POWP) - not stated only (b)	2.3%	2.3%	5.0%	5.0%
Place of Work (POWP) - total imputed rate where POW was partially/completely not stated (b)	-	-	9.4%	9.4%
Public/Private Sector (GNGP) (b)	1.0%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (b)	-	-	0.9%	0.9%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (c)	5.5%	1.6%	8.9%	3.5%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (d)	6.5%	2.6%	7.9%	2.4%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
▫excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
▫excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
▫excludes non-applicable persons
b) Persons aged 15 years and over.
c) Persons aged 1 year and over.
d) Persons aged 5 years and over.

Item non-response rates for Dwelling variables, Queensland

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)			2016 Place of Enumeration (a)		
	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Dwelling Structure (STRD) (b)	1,826,450	2,196	0.1%	1,987,313	12,171	0.6%
Landlord type (LLDD) (c)	527,304	12,178	2.3%	576,822	10,146	1.8%
Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED) (d)	537,079	29,683	5.5%	561,786	23,517	4.2%

Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD) (e)	1,648,537	92,832	5.6%	1,791,739	141,654	7.9%
Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) (e)	1,648,537	109,785	6.7%	1,791,739	157,625	8.8%
Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD) (c)	527,304	18,599	3.5%	576,822	16,974	2.9%
Tenure type (TEND) (e)	1,648,537	100,870	6.1%	1,791,739	146,024	8.1%
Type of Internet Connection (NEDD) (e)	1,648,537	117,879	7.2%	1,791,739	145,438	8.1%
Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D) (e)	1,547,304	29,178	1.9%	1,656,831	102,727	6.2%
Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D) (e)	1,547,304	47,221	3.1%	1,656,831	47,592	2.9%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census night.
b) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings. Information is primarily sourced from the ABS Address Register. A Field Officer (but not householder), may also provide a response.
c) Occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes dwellings being occupied rent free.
d) Occupied private dwellings being purchased. Includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.
e) Includes all occupied private dwellings.

South Australia

Item non-response rates for first release person variables, South Australia

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (b)	3.0%	0.5%	4.2%	0.4%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (c)	5.6%	3.1%	5.6%	1.9%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	4.8%	2.3%	5.6%	1.9%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	5.2%	2.8%	5.5%	1.7%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	5.2%	2.7%	5.6%	1.9%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	4.5%	2.0%	5.9%	2.1%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	4.5%	2.0%	5.8%	2.0%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	5.2%	2.8%	5.7%	2.0%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (d)	7.5%	5.0%	7.4%	3.6%
Indigenous Status (INGP)	3.9%	1.4%	4.9%	1.1%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	3.9%	1.4%	5.2%	1.5%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (e)	4.9%	2.8%	6.5%	2.8%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(b)	2.8%	0.3%	4.1%	0.3%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(b)	2.7%	0.2%	4.0%	0.2%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	1.4%	1.3%	1.1%	1.1%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(b)(d)	3.9%	0.9%	5.3%	0.7%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (f)	8.9%	6.5%	8.3%	4.6%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (g)	13.6%	6.2%	20.7%	6.9%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(b)(h)	-	-	4.5%	0.7%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (d)	6.6%	4.1%	7.4%	3.6%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (i)	4.8%	4.8%	2.8%	2.8%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (d)	7.3%	4.8%	7.5%	3.7%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (d)	6.6%	4.1%	6.9%	3.1%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (d)	7.3%	4.8%	7.3%	3.6%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (d)	6.8%	4.3%	6.7%	2.9%
Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP) (j)	4.6%	4.6%	3.2%	3.2%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.
c) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).
d) Persons aged 15 years and over.
e) Females aged 15 years and over.
f) Answering this Census question is optional.
g) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.
h) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.
i) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.
j) Persons born overseas, but excludes overseas visitors.

Item non-response rates for second release person variables, South Australia

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EEET) (b)	-	-	6.2%	2.3%
Hours Worked (HRSP)/Hours Worked (ranges) (HRWRP) (b)	1.9%	1.9%	1.6%	1.6%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (b)	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (b)	4.4%	1.9%	5.2%	1.3%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (b)	1.4%	1.4%	0.9%	0.9%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (b)	2.2%	2.2%	2.0%	2.0%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (b)	3.1%	2.3%	2.7%	2.7%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (b)	1.7%	1.7%	1.4%	1.4%
Occupation (OCCP) (b)	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Place of Usual Residence 1 year ago (PUR1P) (c)	4.1%	1.6%	7.5%	3.8%
Place of Usual Residence 5 years ago (PUR5P) (d)	5.4%	2.9%	6.9%	3.1%
Place of Work (POWP) - not stated only (b)	2.4%	2.4%	3.9%	3.9%
Place of Work (POWP) - total imputed rate where POW was partially/completely not stated (b)	-	-	6.5%	6.5%
Public/Private Sector (GNGP) (b)	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (b)	-	-	1.0%	1.0%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (c)	4.0%	1.5%	7.3%	3.6%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (d)	4.9%	2.5%	6.3%	2.6%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) Persons aged 15 years and over.
c) Persons aged 1 year and over.
d) Persons aged 5 years and over.

Item non-response rates for Dwelling variables, South Australia

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)			2016 Place of Enumeration (a)		
	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Dwelling Structure (STRD) (b)	727,673	658	0.1%	765,786	3,002	0.4%
Landlord type (LLDD) (c)	175,986	4,126	2.3%	185,535	3,621	2.0%
Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED) (d)	219,479	9,687	4.4%	227,039	7,908	3.5%
Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD) (e)	643,895	28,040	4.4%	673,541	39,784	5.9%
Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) (e)	643,895	34,702	5.4%	673,541	46,556	6.9%
Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD) (c)	175,986	7,142	4.1%	185,535	6,662	3.6%
Tenure type (TEND) (e)	643,895	33,086	5.1%	673,541	41,943	6.2%
Type of Internet Connection (NEDD) (e)	643,895	38,026	5.9%	673,541	41,295	6.1%
Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D) (e)	619,041	11,306	1.8%	638,792	38,129	6.0%
Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D) (e)	619,041	17,162	2.8%	638,792	19,284	3.0%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census night.
b) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings. Information is primarily sourced from the ABS Address Register. A Field Officer (but not householder), may also provide a response.
c) Occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes dwellings being occupied rent free.
d) Occupied private dwellings being purchased. Includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.
e) Includes all non occupied private dwellings.

Western Australia

Item non-response rates for first release person variables, Western Australia

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (b)	5.1%	0.5%	6.3%	0.6%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (c)	7.7%	3.1%	7.7%	2.0%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	7.2%	2.6%	7.7%	2.1%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	7.4%	2.8%	7.4%	1.8%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	7.3%	2.8%	7.6%	2.0%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	6.8%	2.2%	7.9%	2.3%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	6.5%	1.9%	7.5%	1.8%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	7.2%	2.8%	7.5%	2.1%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (d)	9.4%	4.8%	9.4%	3.6%
Indigenous Status (INGP)	5.9%	1.3%	6.6%	0.9%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	6.2%	1.6%	7.2%	1.6%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (e)	6.4%	2.6%	8.4%	3.1%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(b)	5.1%	0.4%	6.1%	0.4%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(b)	4.9%	0.2%	5.9%	0.2%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(b)(d)	6.6%	0.9%	7.6%	0.6%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (f)	9.8%	5.3%	9.9%	4.4%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (g)	24.0%	8.5%	29.0%	8.2%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(b)(h)	-	-	6.3%	0.6%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (d)	8.8%	4.2%	9.6%	3.8%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (i)	4.9%	4.9%	3.0%	3.0%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (d)	9.3%	4.7%	9.6%	3.7%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (d)	8.7%	4.1%	9.0%	3.2%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (d)	9.3%	4.7%	9.4%	3.6%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (d)	9.0%	4.4%	8.9%	3.1%
Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP) (j)	5.1%	5.1%	3.1%	3.1%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.
c) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).
d) Persons aged 15 years and over.
e) Females aged 15 years and over.
f) Answering this Census question is optional.
g) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.
h) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.
i) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.
j) Persons born overseas, but excludes overseas visitors.

Item non-response rates for second release person variables, Western Australia

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EEET) (b)	-	-	8.3%	2.4%
Hours Worked (HRSP)/Hours Worked (ranges) (HRWRP) (b)	2.0%	2.0%	1.7%	1.7%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (b)	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (b)	6.6%	1.9%	7.4%	1.5%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (b)	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (b)	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%	2.1%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (b)	1.5%	4.0%	2.9%	2.9%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (b)	1.6%	1.6%	1.1%	1.1%
Occupation (OCCP) (b)	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%
Place of Usual Residence 1 year ago (PUR1P) (c)	6.5%	1.9%	9.3%	3.8%
Place of Usual Residence 5 years ago (PUR5P) (d)	7.7%	3.2%	8.7%	3.1%
Place of Work (POWP) - not stated only (b)	2.0%	2.0%	4.9%	4.9%
Place of Work (POWP) - total imputed rate where POW was partially/completely not stated (b)	-	-	9.5%	9.5%
Public/Private Sector (GNGP) (b)	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (b)	-	-	0.9%	0.9%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (c)	6.3%	1.7%	9.0%	3.5%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (d)	7.3%	2.7%	8.0%	2.4%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) Persons aged 15 years and over.
c) Persons aged 1 year and over.
d) Persons aged 5 years and over.

Item non-response rates for Dwelling variables, Western Australia

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)			2016 Place of Enumeration (a)		
	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Dwelling Structure (STRD) (b)	960,718	1,719	0.2%	1,070,962	4,168	0.4%
Landlord type (LLDD) (c)	302,389	14,893	4.9%	346,219	13,177	3.8%
Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED) (d)	238,976	5,948	2.5%	251,495	5,202	2.1%
Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD) (e)	851,391	51,431	6.0%	938,092	71,825	7.7%
Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) (e)	851,391	59,865	7.0%	938,092	79,568	8.5%
Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD) (c)	238,976	10,028	4.2%	251,495	9,233	3.7%
Tenure type (TEND) (e)	851,391	56,220	6.6%	938,092	74,356	7.9%
Type of Internet Connection (NEDD) (e)	851,391	65,016	7.6%	938,092	74,100	7.9%
Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D) (e)	794,157	14,369	1.8%	866,777	52,239	6.0%
Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D) (e)	794,157	23,212	2.9%	866,777	23,028	2.7%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census night.
b) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings. Information is primarily sourced from the ABS Address Register. A Field Officer (but not householder), may also provide a response.

c) Occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes dwellings being occupied rent free.
d) Occupied private dwellings being purchased. Includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.
e) Includes all occupied private dwellings.

Tasmania

Item non-response rates for first release person variables, Tasmania

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (b)	2.8%	0.5%	4.9%	0.5%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (c)	5.8%	3.6%	6.4%	2.0%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	4.7%	2.5%	6.3%	1.9%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	5.2%	3.0%	6.3%	1.9%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	5.1%	2.9%	6.4%	2.0%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	4.4%	2.2%	6.8%	2.4%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	4.6%	2.4%	7.0%	2.7%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	5.3%	3.2%	6.7%	2.5%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (d)	7.6%	5.5%	8.6%	4.2%
Indigenous Status (INGP)	3.8%	1.5%	5.8%	1.4%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	3.7%	1.5%	6.0%	1.6%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (e)	4.7%	2.7%	7.2%	2.8%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(b)	2.6%	0.3%	4.8%	0.4%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(b)	2.5%	0.2%	4.7%	0.2%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	1.3%	1.1%	1.3%	1.3%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(b)(d)	3.8%	1.0%	6.3%	1.0%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (f)	8.9%	6.8%	9.0%	4.7%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (g)	11.8%	6.7%	22.2%	7.6%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(b)(h)	-	-	5.3%	0.9%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (d)	6.0%	3.9%	8.1%	3.7%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (i)	5.0%	5.1%	3.2%	3.2%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (d)	7.3%	5.2%	8.6%	4.2%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (d)	6.6%	4.4%	7.9%	3.5%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (d)	7.3%	5.2%	8.5%	4.1%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (d)	6.9%	4.8%	7.7%	3.3%
Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP) (j)	4.3%	4.3%	3.7%	3.7%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.
c) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).
d) Persons aged 15 years and over.
e) Females aged 15 years and over.
f) Answering this Census question is optional.
g) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.
h) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.
i) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.
j) Persons born overseas, but excludes overseas visitors.

Item non-response rates for second release person variables, Tasmania

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EEET) (b)	-	-	7.2%	2.8%
Hours Worked (HRSP)/Hours Worked (ranges) (HRWRP) (b)	1.9%	1.9%	1.7%	1.7%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (b)	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (b)	4.3%	2.1%	6.0%	1.5%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (b)	1.4%	1.4%	1.0%	1.0%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (b)	2.3%	2.3%	2.2%	2.2%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (b)	3.4%	2.3%	3.1%	3.1%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (b)	1.6%	1.7%	1.5%	1.5%
Occupation (OCCP) (b)	0.7%	0.7%	1.1%	0.6%
Place of Usual Residence 1 year ago (PUR1P) (c)	4.0%	1.8%	8.3%	4.0%
Place of Usual Residence 5 years ago (PUR5P) (d)	5.2%	3.0%	7.8%	3.4%
Place of Work (POWP) - not stated only (b)	2.0%	2.0%	3.9%	3.9%
Place of Work (POWP) - total imputed rate where POW was partially/completely not stated (b)	-	-	6.5%	6.5%
Public/Private Sector (GNGP) (b)	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (b)	-	-	1.2%	1.2%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (c)	3.9%	1.6%	8.1%	3.8%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (d)	4.9%	2.7%	7.3%	2.9%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) Persons aged 15 years and over.
c) Persons aged 1 year and over.
d) Persons aged 5 years and over.

Item non-response rates for Dwelling variables, Tasmania

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)			2016 Place of Enumeration (a)		
	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Dwelling Structure (STRD) (b)	232,371	149	0.1%	241,744	813	0.3%
Landlord type (LLDD) (c)	51,941	1,531	2.9%	55,066	1,398	2.5%
Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED) (d)	66,278	2,919	4.4%	66,613	2,412	3.6%
Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD) (e)	199,878	8,005	4.0%	209,614	14,022	6.7%
Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) (e)	199,878	10,337	5.2%	209,614	16,687	8.0%
Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD) (c)	51,941	1,725	3.3%	55,066	1,760	3.2%
Tenure type (TEND) (e)	199,878	9,457	4.7%	209,614	14,718	7.0%
Type of Internet Connection (NEDD) (e)	199,878	11,192	5.6%	209,614	14,548	6.9%
Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D) (e)	192,826	3,830	2.0%	197,575	12,245	6.2%
Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D) (e)	192,826	5,830	3.0%	197,575	7,043	3.6%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census night.
b) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings. Information is primarily sourced from the ABS Address Register. A Field Officer (but not householder), may also provide a response.
c) Occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes dwellings being occupied rent free.
d) Occupied private dwellings being purchased. Includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.
e) Includes all occupied private dwellings.

Northern Territory

Item non-response rates for first release person variables, Northern Territory

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (b)	9.1%	2.0%	12.3%	2.4%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (c)	11.8%	4.9%	13.7%	4.0%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	10.4%	3.3%	12.6%	2.8%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	11.1%	4.2%	13.4%	3.6%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	11.0%	4.0%	13.4%	3.6%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	11.5%	4.5%	14.7%	5.1%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	9.2%	2.1%	12.3%	2.4%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	11.5%	4.8%	13.9%	4.6%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (d)	13.9%	6.8%	16.5%	6.4%
Indigenous Status (INGP)	8.5%	1.3%	11.2%	1.2%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	10.7%	3.6%	13.3%	3.6%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (e)	11.5%	5.1%	15.6%	6.3%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(b)	8.5%	1.3%	11.2%	1.2%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(b)	8.0%	0.7%	10.7%	0.7%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	1.7%	1.5%	2.0%	2.0%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(b)(d)	11.6%	2.7%	14.8%	2.8%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (f)	14.7%	8.0%	16.2%	6.7%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (g)	26.1%	14.8%	38.8%	14.2%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(b)(h)	-		11.0%	1.0%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (d)	13.6%	6.5%	17.3%	7.2%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (i)	5.9%	5.9%	4.5%	4.5%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (d)	14.0%	6.9%	17.0%	6.9%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (d)	10.1%	6.1%	16.0%	5.7%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (d)	13.9%	6.8%	16.5%	6.4%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (d)	13.7%	6.6%	16.2%	6.0%
Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP) (j)	7.0%	7.0%	4.3%	4.3%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.
c) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).
d) Persons aged 15 years and over.
e) Females aged 15 years and over.
f) Answering this Census question is optional.
g) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.
h) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.
i) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.
j) Persons born overseas, but excludes overseas visitors.

Item non-response rates for second release person variables, Northern Territory

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EEET) (b)	-	-	15.2%	4.9%
Hours Worked (HRSP)/Hours Worked (ranges) (HRWRP) (b)	2.7%	2.7%	2.5%	2.5%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (b)	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (b)	10.8%	3.4%	13.8%	3.3%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (b)	1.9%	1.9%	1.5%	1.5%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (b)	3.0%	3.0%	2.5%	2.5%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (b)	3.1%	2.3%	2.8%	2.8%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (b)	5.1%	5.1%	1.7%	1.7%
Occupation (OCCP) (b)	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%	1.0%
Place of Usual Residence 1 year ago (PUR1P) (c)	10.5%	3.4%	14.9%	5.3%
Place of Usual Residence 5 years ago (PUR5P) (d)	11.9%	4.8%	15.1%	5.3%
Place of Work (POWP) - not stated only (b)	2.5%	2.5%	5.8%	5.8%
Place of Work (POWP) - total imputed rate where POW was partially/completely not stated (b)	-	-	10.6%	10.6%
Public/Private Sector (GNGP) (b)	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (b)	-	-	1.1%	1.1%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (c)	10.2%	3.2%	14.3%	4.7%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (d)	11.3%	4.2%	14.0%	4.1%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons
b) Persons aged 15 years and over.
c) Persons aged 1 year and over.
d) Persons aged 5 years and over.

Item non-response rates for Dwelling variables, Northern Territory

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)			2016 Place of Enumeration (a)		
	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Dwelling Structure (STRD) (b)	81,189	626	0.8%	89,959	878	1.0%
Landlord type (LLDD) (c)	31,668	1,014	3.2%	34,376	988	2.9%
Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED) (d)	18,959	1,020	5.4%	19,586	867	4.4%
Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD) (e)	72,592	8,318	11.5%	79,246	11,367	14.3%
Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) (e)	72,592	8,996	12.4%	79,246	12,354	15.6%
Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD) (c)	31,668	2,298	7.3%	34,376	2,700	7.9%
Tenure type (TEND) (e)	72,592	8,519	11.7%	79,246	11,532	14.6%
Type of Internet Connection (NEDD) (e)	72,592	9,316	12.8%	79,246	11,685	14.7%
Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D) (f)	60,893	1,506	2.5%	65,061	3,897	6.0%
Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D) (f)	60,893	2,317	3.8%	65,061	2,313	3.6%

Footnotes
a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census night.
b) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings. Information is primarily sourced from the ABS Address Register. A Field Officer (but not householder), may also provide a response.
c) Occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes dwellings being occupied rent free.
d) Occupied private dwellings being purchased. Includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.
e) Includes all occupied private dwellings.

Australian Capital Territory

Item non-response rates for first release person variables, Australian Capital Territory

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Age (AGEP, IFAGEP) (b)	3.5%	0.4%	4.8%	0.2%
Ancestry 1st Response (ANC1P) (c)	5.6%	2.5%	6.0%	1.5%
Australian Citizenship (CITP)	5.0%	2.0%	6.4%	1.9%
Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)	5.1%	2.0%	5.7%	1.2%
Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)	5.1%	2.0%	5.9%	1.4%
Core Activity Need For Assistance (ASSNP)	4.7%	1.6%	5.9%	1.4%
Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)	4.6%	1.5%	5.7%	1.2%
Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)	4.8%	1.8%	5.6%	1.3%
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) (d)	6.2%	3.0%	6.9%	2.1%
Indigenous Status (INGP)	4.0%	0.9%	5.2%	0.6%
Language Spoken at Home (LANP)	4.2%	1.1%	5.6%	1.1%
Number of Children Ever Born (TISP) (e)	4.8%	2.0%	6.8%	2.4%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA1 level)(b)	3.4%	0.3%	4.8%	0.2%
Place of Usual Residence on Census Night (PURP - SA2 level)(b)	3.3%	0.2%	4.7%	0.1%
Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)	1.2%	1.1%	0.9%	0.9%
Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)(b)(d)	4.3%	0.5%	5.8%	0.3%
Religious Affiliation (RELP) (f)	7.7%	4.7%	8.7%	4.3%
Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP) (g)	20.1%	6.2%	27.8%	7.6%
Sex (SEXP) (IFSEXP)(b)(h)	-		4.9%	0.4%
Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) (d)	5.8%	2.6%	7.2%	2.5%
Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) (i)	2.6%	2.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Unpaid Assistance to a Person With a Disability (UNCAREP) (d)	6.3%	3.1%	7.2%	2.5%
Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP) (d)	5.8%	2.6%	6.9%	2.1%
Unpaid Domestic Work (DOMP) (d)	6.2%	2.9%	7.0%	2.3%
Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP) (d)	6.1%	2.9%	6.7%	2.0%
Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP) (j)	3.9%	3.9%	2.7%	2.7%

Footnotes

a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons

b) The variables Age, Marital Status, Sex, Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Place of Usual Residence on Census Night are calculated as 'imputation rates' rather than non-response as a 'not stated' is not a category within these variables.
When a person has not responded to the Census at all, then these key demographic variables are imputed.

c) For 2016, two variables, Ancestry1 (ANC1P) and Ancestry2 (ANC2P) were used to record responses separately. Prior to the 2006 Census, both ancestry responses were coded to a single variable, Ancestry (ANCP).

d) Persons aged 15 years and over.

e) Females aged 15 years and over.

f) Answering this Census question is optional.

g) Persons in a Non-Private Dwelling.

h) The imputation flag for sex (IFSEXP) was not available in 2011.

i) Persons attending an educational institution. Excludes non-respondents to the Full/Part-Time Student Status (STUP) question.

j) Persons born overseas, but excludes overseas visitors.

Item non-response rates for second release person variables, Australian Capital Territory

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)		2016 Place of Enumeration (a)	
	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)	Non-response rate (%)	Non-response rate (excl. imputed persons) (%)
Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EEET) (b)		-	6.3%	1.5%
Hours Worked (HRSP)/Hours Worked (ranges) (HRWRP) (b)	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Industry of Employment (INDP) (b)	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%
Labour Force Status (LFSP) (b)	4.5%	1.2%	5.9%	1.1%
Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) (b)	1.0%	1.0%	0.6%	0.6%
Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP) (b)	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP) (b)	0.8%	2.7%	1.6%	1.6%
Number of Employees (EMPP) (b)	1.5%	1.5%	0.7%	0.7%
Occupation (OCCP) (b)	0.4%	0.4%	2.0%	0.5%
Place of Usual Residence 1 year ago (PUR1P) (c)	4.4%	1.2%	8.1%	3.7%
Place of Usual Residence 5 years ago (PUR5P) (d)	5.3%	2.1%	6.8%	2.3%
Place of Work (POWP) - not stated only (b)	1.4%	1.4%	4.1%	4.1%
Place of Work (POWP) - total imputed rate where POW was partially/completely not stated (b)	-	-	7.7%	7.7%
Public/Private Sector (GNGP) (b)	0.7%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%
Status in Employment (SIEMP) (b)	-	-	0.5%	0.5%
Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P) (c)	4.2%	1.1%	7.9%	3.5%
Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P) (d)	4.9%	1.7%	6.2%	1.7%

Footnotes

a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census Night. This count
◦excludes overseas visitors for all person variables
◦excludes Australian residents temporarily overseas
◦excludes non-applicable persons

b) Persons aged 15 years and over.

c) Persons aged 1 year and over.

d) Persons aged 5 years and over.

Item non-response rates for Dwelling variables, Australian Capital Territory

	2011 Place of enumeration (a)			2016 Place of Enumeration (a)		
	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)	Dwellings for which question was relevant	Dwellings for which there was no response	Non-response rate (%)
Dwelling Structure (STRD) (b)	145,230	57	0.0%	163,286	312	0.2%
Landlord type (LLDD) (c)	40,582	522	1.3%	46,219	508	1.1%
Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED) (d)	50,654	1,696	3.3%	55,100	1,657	3.0%
Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD) (e)	135,035	5,356	4.0%	150,693	9,050	6.0%
Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD) (e)	135,035	6,540	4.8%	150,693	9,948	6.6%
Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD) (c)	40,582	1,302	3.2%	46,219	1,355	2.9%
Tenure type (TEND) (e)	135,035	5,870	4.3%	150,693	9,408	6.2%
Type of Internet Connection (NEDD) (e)	135,035	7,074	5.2%	150,693	9,364	6.2%
Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D) (f)	129,425	1,742	1.3%	142,664	9,251	6.5%
Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D) (f)	129,425	2,639	2.0%	142,664	2,613	1.8%

Footnotes

a) The place of enumeration count refers to the count of people in the state or territory where they were located on Census night.

b) Includes all occupied and unoccupied private dwellings. Information is primarily sourced from the ABS Address Register. A Field Officer (but not householder), may also provide a response.

c) Occupied private dwellings being rented. Includes dwellings being occupied rent free.

d) Occupied private dwellings being purchased. Includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.

e) Includes all occupied private dwellings.

Understanding the data

Understanding the data

This chapter provides background information to enable greater understanding when using and interpreting 2016 Census data. It provides information about changes to the

questions on the Census form; where changes in the data have emerged as a result of the different collection method, and detailed quality statements for each of the Census data items. It also provides information on some key Census concepts, including the difference between a person's place of enumeration and their place of usual residence, and the geographical classification used to disseminate Census data.

Question changes in 2016

Changes were made to some of the questions asked in the 2016 Census. These changes were implemented to make the form easier to complete and to optimise the quality of the data produced. Some of the more notable changes are outlined below, however, full details about question changes can be found in Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016.

Sex

The default question in the 2016 Census asked people whether they were male or female, however, special procedures were introduced to enable people to report as neither male nor female on both the paper and online forms. Information on these procedures were available on the online Census form, on the ABS website, and from the Census Inquiry Service.

Analysis of the responses received from people who identified as neither male nor female will be made available in an analytical article published under Reflecting Australia: Stories from the Census, 2016.

Religion

For the Censuses between 1991 – 2011 *no religion* was the last response category in the question. On the 2016 Census form, the *no religion* category was placed at the top of the list of responses for the question. The order of response options for all questions are reviewed before each Census. The ABS tries to put the most commonly reported response option at the top in order to make the Census form easier and quicker to complete. Increases in reporting of 'no religion' in 2011 meant that this was the second most reported option, and likely to become the most reported option in 2016.

This change was made following the 2016 Census topic review process, where many submissions recommended changes to the Religious affiliation question due to perceived bias in the question format and consequent potential underestimates of the number of people who stated they had no religion.

After user consultation and testing, the ABS decided to move the 'No religion' response category to be the first response category in the question, so it will be more consistent with other questions and the order of their response categories. This approach is consistent with that of a number of other countries.

Country of birth of parents

The questions asking about the country of birth of a person's parents were amended to request respondents to provide details of the specific country of birth (where it is not Australia). In previous Censuses, the question had a generic 'overseas' category however consultation with key users of the data during the 2016 Census topic review showed opportunity for a greater understanding of the heritage and ancestries of Australia's population through changes to the questions.

Ancestry

The layout of the ancestry question was changed for the 2016 Census, providing two distinct areas in which people could write an ancestry that was not one of the pick box ancestries. This change aimed to clarify responses and improve autocoding rates and data quality. In previous Censuses, when writing more than one ancestry in a single area, people tended to add marks such as backslashes or hyphens between them, which made the entries fail autocoding and left the intended answer unclear.

Targeted supplementary questions

Targeted supplementary questions, asking more specialised questions based on previous responses, were included on the online form to obtain better quality fine-level data for occupation and industry.

New variables

Four new variables have been added to the suite of available data items in the output.

- Housing Suitability (HOSD) and Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EETP) have been derived from existing data items
- Status in Employment (SIEMP) has replaced Employment Type (EMTP)
- An imputation flag has been added for the sex variable (IFSEXP)

Details on the new data items can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Inclusion of Norfolk Island

Norfolk Island was included in the Australian Census for the first time following passage of the *Norfolk Island Legislation Amendment Act, 2015*. Amendments to the geographical classification used with the Census, and to some standard classifications relating to cultural diversity, have been made as a consequence of this change.

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)

The 2016 Census uses the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) as the basis for disseminating data, which was introduced for the 2011 Census. For the 2011 Census, data was also available for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), the basic unit from the geographic classification used in 2006, to enable time series comparison. This was a transitional arrangement and will not be available in 2016.

Mesh Blocks (MBs) are the base unit of output geography for the ASGS and will aggregate to form the higher level units in the main structure of the ASGS.
For further information see the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Areas, July 2016

Place of enumeration versus place of usual residence

A person's place of enumeration is the place at which they were counted i.e. where they were on Census night. This type of count provides a snapshot in any given area, and whilst the Census is timed to attempt to capture the typical situation, holiday areas such as the Gold Coast and snow fields may show a large enumeration count compared with the usual residence count.

A person's place of usual residence is the place at which they usually reside. Census counts compiled on this basis are less likely to be influenced by seasonal factors such as school holidays and snow seasons, and provide information about the usual residents of an area. Census usual residence data is used as the basis of forming the Estimated Resident Population, Australia's official population count.

For more information about Place of enumeration and place of usual residence, please refer to the glossary of the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Census and the Estimated Resident Population

The table below outlines the difference between counts from the Census and the official ABS population estimates published in Estimated Resident Population (ERP).

	Census Place of Enumeration Count	Census Usual Residence Count	Estimated Resident Population
Type of count	A count of all people across Australia on Census night, based on the dwelling in which they completed a Census form.	A count of all people across Australia on census night who indicated in the Census that they are usually resident in Australia, based on the usual address provided.	The official ABS estimate of the population that is resident in Australia, derived from several data sources.
Reference date	Tuesday 9th August 2016	Tuesday 9th August 2016	Quarterly - 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31^t December
Inclusions and exclusions			

Overseas visitors	P	x	x
Adjusted using results from the Post Enumeration Survey	x	x	P
Australian residents temporarily overseas	x	x	P
Demographically adjusted (age and sex)	x	x	P
Adjusted for births and deaths	x	x	P
Adjusted for net overseas and interstate migration	x	x	P
Includes other territories such as Norfolk Island and Jervis Bay, Christmas Island, Cocos Islands	P	P	P

Person variables

Data quality statements provide a brief description of each 2016 Census variable including non-response rates and any known data quality issues, as well as an image of the relevant question as it appeared on the 2016 Census form. Statements are available for Person, Family, and Dwelling data variables

Family variables

Data quality statements provide a brief description of each 2016 Census variable including non-response rates and any known data quality issues, as well as an image of the relevant question as it appeared on the 2016 Census form. Statements are available for Person, Family, and Dwelling data variables

Dwelling variables

Data quality statements provide a brief description of each 2016 Census variable including non-response rates and any known data quality issues, as well as an image of the relevant question as it appeared on the 2016 Census form. Statements are available for Person, Family, and Dwelling data variables

AGEP Age

Age (AGEP, AGE10P, AGE5P, IFAGEP)

This variable contains a person's age, and is collected for each person. Age data are also available in variables that group age in 5 year groups and age in 10 year groups.

How this variable is created

Respondents had the option to report either Date of Birth or Age. Where both sets of information were provided, Date of Birth was used to derive an age in years, except in circumstances where errors in the Date of Birth were identified. An image of this question is provided below.

Age imputation

Where no Census form has been returned for a dwelling that is identified by a Census Field Officer as having been occupied on Census night, people are imputed into that dwelling (both numbers and key demographic characteristics such as age, sex, marital status and usual address). The majority of imputed ages are attributed to imputed people. Refer to item non-response rates for more information.

A smaller proportion of imputed age was due to people who returned a partially completed form without reporting age. Where age was not stated or could not be derived, it was imputed using other information on the form and an age distribution of the population. There were also cases where respondents reported an age outside the acceptable range or where there were inconsistencies between age and relationship data.

Imputation Flag for Age variable indicates if a person's age was imputed in the Census. There are two categories:

1 Age not imputed
2 Age imputed

For 2016 Census data, the ABS introduced a new approach for age imputation. This methodology addressed data quality concerns with imputed age records in 2011 Census data and improved processing efficiency. A two step procedure was implemented together with age bounding rules to impute age. First, a linear regression model was used to model the likely age of recipients and rank their tendency be either younger or older. This ranking was then used in combination with other reported characteristics to impute an appropriate age value to recipients from similar individuals in the responding population.

The new methodology has improved age data quality for the 2016 Census. However, there are a small number of areas where there was a high level of non-response to the age question and age was imputed. The age distribution in areas where there are high levels of age imputation may not be representative for the underlying population and should be interpreted with caution. This is more noticeable in the small number of remote communities where there is a high level of age imputation (more than 20% of Census counts) combined with the reporting of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander status. The data for people where age was reported is not impacted.

Variable history

A question relating to Age has been asked at every Census since 1911. Since 2006, respondents have had the option to report either Date of Birth or Age in years. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Using the Imputation Flag for Age, the non-response rate for this variable in 2016 was 5.5% (4.2% in 2011). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Respondents occasionally make errors in reporting their age or date of birth, such as reporting their last birthday or the date they filled out their Census form rather than their date of birth, parents filling in the form on their children's behalf and inadvertently reporting their own age or date of birth for their children, character transposition errors, or other typographical errors (e.g. sticky key repetition). The latter two are particularly relevant to the online version of the Census form.

Data captured from written responses carries a small risk of character recognition error, mainly caused by poor handwriting or respondents writing outside the question box. The vast majority of individual characters written on paper forms met pre-set recognition confidence levels and were accepted without further examination. Characters that failed given recognition confidence levels, or responses where there was a discrepancy of more than three years between age last birthday and date of birth, were sent to clerical officers for further determination based on visual inspection of an image of the response.

Other checks on age (such as unlikely combinations of age and other variables) were made at various stages during processing, to ensure an acceptable level of quality was

maintained.

Further information
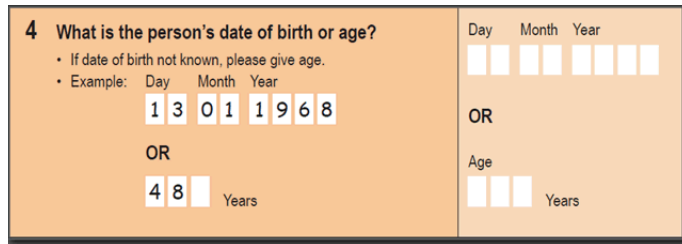
A definition of Age is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
A definition of Imputation Flag for Age is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For the official ABS estimate of demographic data on the Australian population, users should refer to Australian Demographic Statistics.

Household Form question image

Question 4 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

ANCP Ancestry Multi Response

Ancestry (ANCP, ANC1P, ANC2P)

This variable indicates how a person identifies their ancestry. Respondents are able to provide up to two ancestries; ANC1P reports the first ancestry provided, ANC2P reports the second ancestry provided, and ANCP combines the two responses into a multi-response variable.

Ancestry is applicable to all people counted in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Ancestry is a variable that is created from the responses to the Ancestry question on the Census Household Form. An image of this question is provided below.

Respondents were able to use either a mark box to indicate up to two commonly reported ancestry responses (out of seven options) or write a response in one or both text fields. The majority of responses for ancestry were captured automatically from mark box responses (80.2% for Ancestry 1 and 72.2% for Ancestry 2).

Written responses were coded using a combination of automatic reading and coding processes (18.7% for Ancestry 1 and 4.8% for Ancestry 2). The remaining responses required manual coding processes when they could not be coded or derived automatically (1.0% for Ancestry 1 and 22.9% for Ancestry 2).

In 4.4% of pre-processed data, people provided more than two ancestry responses. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra response was rejected.

In cases where a respondent provided only one ancestry, Ancestry 2 was recorded as Not Applicable.

Ancestry is coded using the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCED) 2016. If a response is not listed in the classification, it is coded to 'Inadequately described'. In 2016, 0.2% of data for Ancestry 1 and 0.2% of data for Ancestry 2 were coded to 'Inadequately described'.

The revision of the ancestry classification is part of a periodical review process. The latest revision resulted in two additional cultural and ethnic groups, 1512 Pitcairn and 4914 Yezidi, and several titles of cultural and ethnic groups were adjusted in order to better reflect current terminology and to correct spelling. For more information on the ancestry classification and categories, see the Australian Standard Classification of Cultural and Ethnic Groups (ASCCEG), 2016.

Variable history

Ancestry was first included as a question in the 1986 Census. The aim of the question was to measure the ethnic composition of the population as a whole. Evaluation showed that it was not useful for this purpose as there was a high level of subjectivity and confusion about what the question meant, particularly for those people whose families had been in Australia for many generations. Very little use was made of the ancestry data from the 1986 Census. As a consequence, ancestry was not included in either the 1991 or 1996 Censuses.

Leading up to the 2001 Census, the ABS established a Census Consultative Group on Ancestry, with the objectives of:

- seeking user input
- identifying user requirements for these data
- researching international practices
- developing and testing questions that would provide acceptable and accurate data at a reasonable cost.

The conclusion of the Consultative Group was that major policy issues required data about those people who were born overseas themselves, or whose parents were born overseas. It was considered that an ancestry question, in combination with a question on whether the person's parents were born in Australia or overseas, would produce the desired information.

For the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, respondents were asked to mark the ancestries they most closely identified with and to consider their ancestry back as far as two generations (i.e. their parents and grandparents). Respondents were asked to report at least one ancestry, but no more than two ancestries. The instructions differed from the 2001 Census where respondents were asked to 'Provide more than one ancestry if necessary', and to consider their parents, grandparents and great grandparents.

For the 2016 Census the format of the ancestry question was revised to provide two distinct text response areas for two separate written ancestry responses. This change aimed to clarify responses and improve autocoding rates. In previous Censuses, when writing more than one ancestry in a single area, people tended to add marks such as backslashes or hyphens between them, which made the entries fail autocoding and left the intended answer unclear.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 7.0% (6.9% in 2011).

Data usage notes

The objective of the question on ancestry is to gain a better understanding of a person's ethnic background, particularly for Australians who have recently arrived. A person's ancestry, when used in conjunction with the person's birthplace, language and religion, and whether the person's parents were born in Australia or overseas, provides a good

indication of the ethnic background of first and second generation Australians. Ancestry data also help to identify the distinct cultural groups within Australia, such as Maoris or Australian South Sea Islanders, and groups that are spread across countries, such as Kurds or Indians. Country of birth data alone cannot identify these groups. Identification of these groups is essential for planning and for the effective delivery of services to particular ethnic communities.

Multi-response

Because Ancestry is a multi-response question in the Census, responses were coded into two variables - Ancestry 1 (first response) and Ancestry 2 (second response). Depending on the number of responses given, some people are recorded with one ancestry while others have two. This means that the number of responses for a particular ancestry for a geographic area may be greater than the number of people in that area. There is no ranking of responses, so if a respondent reports two ancestries, both answers have equal standing.

Ancestry classification

The ancestry classification is based on the geographic area in which a group originated or developed, and the similarity of cultural and ethnic groups in terms of social and cultural characteristics.

The ABS developed this classification to satisfy wide community interest in the ethnic and cultural composition of the Australian population and the characteristics of particular migrant community groups. The classification is intended to provide a standard to meet a growing statistical, administrative and service delivery need for data relating to these interests.

Related variables

The measurement of the ethnic and cultural diversity of the Australian population, and the degree to which Australians retain their ethnic and cultural identity, is primarily based on the use of a number of Census variables related to a person's origin, including: Ancestry, Ancestry 1, Ancestry 2, Birthplace of Female Parent, Birthplace of Male Parent , Birthplace of Parents, Country of Birth of Person, Religious Affiliation, Year of Arrival in Australia, Indigenous Status and language variables such as Language Spoken at Home and Proficiency in Spoken English.

Further information

Definitions for Ancestry, Ancestry 1 and Ancestry 2 are available in the 2016 Census Dictionary with additional information available in the Glossary.
For related information see data quality statements for Country of Birth of Person, Country of Birth of Mother, Country of Birth of Father and Language Spoken at Home.

Household form question image:

Question 18 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

ASSNP Core Activity Need for Assistance

Core Activity Need for Assistance (ASSNP)

This variable measures the number of people with a profound or severe disability. This population is defined as people who need assistance in their day to day lives with any or all of the following core activities - self care, mobility or communication because of a disability, long-term health condition (lasting six months or more) or old age. It is applicable to all persons.

How the variable is created

The Census uses a set of four questions to capture 'Core Activity Need for Assistance'. Images of these questions are provided below. Responses to the questions are captured automatically from mark box responses where the risk of processing error is low. Sample checks are undertaken to ensure an acceptable level of quality.

Responses to the individual questions are combined to produce the single variable, Core Activity Need for Assistance.

Variable history

The Census 'Core Activity Need for Assistance' concept was first developed for the 2006 Census and the questions have been unchanged since then.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 7.1% in 2016 (5.7% in 2011).

Data usage notes

The Census 'Core Activity Need for Assistance' concept was developed for the 2006 Census to indicate the disability status of people in Australia according to geographic area, and for small groups within the population. Of all ABS collections of disability data, only the Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers (SDAC) is considered to comprehensively measure disability populations, and to provide rates of prevalence at the national and state levels. The Census concept Core Activity Need For Assistance is related to the 'disability status' information collected in the SDAC. The purpose of the Census is to identify people with a 'profound or severe core activity limitation' using similar criteria to the SDAC.

Users wanting more comprehensive information about the disability status of people in Australia should instead refer to the publication Disability, Ageing and Carers, Australia: Summary of Findings, 2015. Despite the conceptual consistency of the measures in the Census and SDAC, abbreviating the set of questions used to collect data on disability, as required for the Census, reduces the number of people who can be classified as having a disability or to a particular level of disability, depending on the concept being collected. The publication, ABS Sources of Disability Information, 2003-2008 examines the different ABS sources of disability data.

Further information

A definition for Core Activity Need For Assistance is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Four Census questions are used to capture data for this variable.
Questions 20 to 23 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

BPFP Country of Birth of Mother

Country of Birth of Mother (BPFP)

This variable indicates the country in which the respondent's mother was born. It is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

Country of Birth of Mother is a person variable that is created based on the response to the question of which country the person's mother was born. An image of this question is provided below.

Country of Birth of Mother is coded using the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016.

Respondents may either use a mark box to indicate Australia or write the name of any other country in the text field. The majority of responses for Country of Birth of Mother were captured automatically from the mark box response (61.1%). Written responses were coded using a combination of automatic reading and coding processes (37.5%). The remaining responses required manual coding processes when they could not be coded or derived automatically (1.4%).

If a response is not listed in the classification, it is coded to 'Inadequately described'. In 2016, 0.2% of data for Country of Birth of Mother were coded to 'Inadequately described'.

In 0.9% of pre-processed data, people marked Australia and also gave a text response. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra response was rejected.

Variable history

A question relating to Country of Birth of Mother was first asked in the 1921 Census, but not included again until 1971 and has been included in all Australian Censuses from 1971.

Prior to the 2001 Census, respondents were asked to write in their mother's birthplace as a text response.

From 2001 to 2011, the question was simplified to a simple mark box with two options for either Australia or Overseas. This was done following the introduction of a question on a person's ancestry.

For the 2016 Census, the question format was changed to again allow respondents to provide details for the country of birth of their mother where it was not in Australia. Respondents were asked to use a mark box to respond for Australia, or a text field to specify any other country.

Over time the name of this variable has changed, but the meaning and the purpose of the question has remained the same.

- 1971 - Birthplace of Parents (PBPP)
- 1976 to 1986 - Birthplace of Mother (BPMP)
- 1991 - Birthplace of Mother (BPFP)
- 1996 - Birthplace of Mother (Female Parent) (BPFP)
- 2001 - Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)
- 2006 - Country of Birth of Mother (BPFP)
- 2011 - Birthplace of Female Parent (BPFP)
- 2016 - Country of Birth of Mother (BPFP)

For more information on this variable's history, see Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 6.7% in 2016 and (6.3% in 2011).

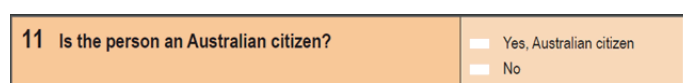**Further information**
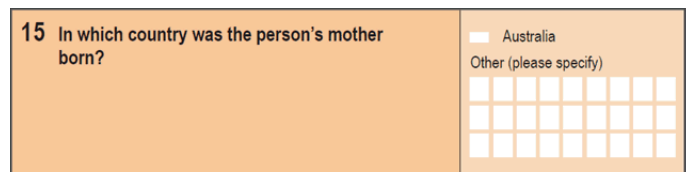
A definition for Country of Birth of Mother is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information on country classification, see the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016.
For further Country of Birth information, see the data quality statements for Country of Birth of Person (BPLP), Country of Birth of Father (BPMP), Country of Birth of Parents (BPPP)

Household form question image

Question 15 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

Question 15 as it appeared on the 2011 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

BPLP Country of Birth of Person

Country of Birth of Person (BPLP)

This variable indicates the country in which a person was born and is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

Country of Birth of Person is a variable that is created based on the response to the question of which country the person was born. An image of this question is provided below.

Respondents may either use a mark box to indicate the country of birth or write the name of any other country in the text field. The majority of responses for Country of Birth of Person were captured automatically from the mark box response (84.4%). Written responses were coded using a combination of automatic reading and coding processes (15.2%). The remaining responses required manual coding processes when they could not be coded or derived automatically (0.4%).

In a small number of cases where country of birth was not stated, the category 'Born in Australia' was derived. This occurred when the person's father or mother was counted in the same dwelling and reported that they were born in Australia. If insufficient information was provided to derive a country response category, it remained as *not stated*.

In 0.5% of pre-processed data, people had either marked more than one country or had marked a country and also gave a text response. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra response was rejected.

During manual coding, if a country is not listed in the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016, then it is coded to 'Inadequately described'. In 2016, 0.1% of data for Country of Birth of Person were coded to 'Inadequately described'.

Variable history

The question relating to Country of Birth of Person was first asked in the 1911 Census.

Prior to 2006, this variable was referred to as 'Birthplace' rather than 'Country of Birth'.

For the 2016 Census, changes to the birthplace question involved the inclusion of 'Philippines' in the list of mark boxes and the exclusion of 'Scotland'. The countries 'India', 'Vietnam' and 'Italy' were also repositioned. These changes were based on analysis of results from the 2011 Census.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 6.9% (5.6% in 2011).

Further information

The countries are coded to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016.
A definition of Country of Birth of Person is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For related information on Country of Birth of Person, see data quality statements for Country of Birth of Mother, Country of Birth of Father and Country of Birth of Parents.

Household form question image

Question 12 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

12 In which country was the person born?
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

- Australia ▶ Go to 14
- England
- New Zealand
- India
- Italy
- Vietnam
- Philippines
- Other (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

BPMP Country of Birth of Father

Country of Birth of Father (BPMP)

This variable indicates the country in which the respondent's father was born. It is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

Country of Birth of Father is a person variable that is created based on the response to the question of which country the person's father was born. An image of this question is provided below.

Country of Birth of Father is coded using the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016.

Respondents may either use a mark box to indicate Australia or write the name of any other country in the text field. The majority of responses for Country of Birth of Father were captured automatically from the mark box response (59.6%). Written responses were coded using a combination of automatic reading and coding processes (38.9%). The remaining responses required manual coding processes when they could not be coded or derived automatically (1.5%).

If a response is not listed in the classification, it is coded to 'Inadequately described'. In 2016, 0.4% of data for Country of Birth of Father were coded to 'Inadequately described'.

In 1.4% of pre-processed data, people marked Australia and also gave a text response. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra response was rejected.

Variable history

A question relating to Country of Birth of Father was first asked in the 1921 Census, but not included again until 1971. It has been included in all Australian Censuses from 1971.

Prior to the 2001 Census, respondents were asked to write in their father's birthplace as a text response.

From 2001 to 2011, the question was simplified to a simple mark box with two options for either Australia or Overseas. This was done following the introduction of a question on a person's ancestry.

For the 2016 Census, the question format was changed to again allow respondents to provide details for the country of birth of their father where it was not in Australia. Respondents were asked to use a mark box to respond for Australia, or a text field to specify any other country.

Over time the name of this variable has changed, but the meaning and the purpose of the question has remained the same.

- 1971 - Birthplace of Parents (PBPP)
- 1976-1986 - Birthplace of Father (BPFP)
- 1991 - Birthplace of Father (BPMP)
- 1996 - Birthplace of Father (Male Parent) (BPMP)
- 2001 - Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)
- 2006 - Country of Birth of Father (BPMP)
- 2011 - Birthplace of Male Parent (BPMP)
- 2016 - Country of Birth of Father (BPMP)

For more information on this variable's history, see Nature and Content, Australia.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 6.9% in 2016 (6.2% in 2011).

Further information

A definition for Country of Birth of Father is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information on country classification, see the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016.
For further Country of Birth information, see the data quality statements for Country of Birth of Person, Country of Birth of Mother and Country of Birth of Parents.

Household form question image

Question 14 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

14 In which country was the person's father born?
- Australia
- Other (please specify)

Question 14 as it appeared on the 2011 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

BPPP Country of Birth of Parents

Country of Birth of Parents (BPPP)

This variable indicates if a person's mother and/or father was born in Australia or overseas. It is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

This variable is created by combining data from the two questions Country of Birth of Father and Country of Birth of Mother. Images of these questions are provided below. Responses are captured automatically from mark box and text responses on the form.

For both questions, respondents were asked to only mark one response. In 1.4% of pre-processed data for Country of Birth of Father and 0.9% of preprocessed data for Country of Birth of Mother, respondents provided more than one response. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra responses were rejected.

Variable history

The two questions used to derive this variable were first asked in the 1921 Census, but not repeated until 1971. Since then, they have been asked in every Census. No changes were made in 2016, aside from changing the name of the variable from 'Birthplace of Parents' to 'Country of Birth of Parents'. For more information on this variable's history, see Nature and Content, Australia.

Non-response rate

Non-response rates only apply to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Country of Birth of Parents does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

The questions used to derive Country of Birth of Parents (Country of Birth of Mother and Country of Birth of Father) have changed in 2016. In 2011 both items only asked if a person's mother and father were born in Australia or overseas, whereas for 2016 the specific country of birth is asked for both parents.

Further information

For 2016, Australia equates to codes 1101 (Australia) and 1102 (Norfolk Island) in the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016.
A definition of Country of Birth of Parents is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information on variables related to Country of Birth of Parents, see Country of Birth of Mother, Country of Birth of Father and Country of Birth of Person.

Household form question image

Questions 14 and 15 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

Questions 14 and 15 as they appeared on the 2011 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CHCAREP Unpaid Child Care

Unpaid Child Care (CHCAREP)

This variable records whether people in the two weeks prior to Census night, spent any time caring for a child/children (under 15 years) without pay and is applicable to all persons aged 15 years and over.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. In 1.4% of pre-processed data, respondents provided an incorrect combination of responses. This occurred when a 'No' response was marked together with one or both of the 'Yes' responses. In these cases the 'Yes' responses are retained and the 'No' response is rejected. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

Questions on unpaid work, including unpaid childcare, were first asked for the 2006 Census. These questions were repeated for 2011 and 2016. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 8.3% in 2016 (7.8% in 2011).

Data usage notes

When analysing Unpaid Child Care data, users may notice older respondents who reported they cared for their own child. The 2016 Census shows 0.4% (0.2% in 2011) of persons aged 80 years and over indicating that they were caring for their own child aged under 15 years. 2.1% (4.8% in 2011) of this subset had their ages imputed, either due to the lack of respondent information or to conform to family processing rules. Imputation rules do not reference Unpaid Child Care as a factor, so there is no statistical correlation between the fields Age and Unpaid Child Care for this group. The remainder reported their Date of Birth and/or Age last birthday, and the output Age remains as reported.

The following scenarios are possible for this data:

- Both variables are correct (for example an aged parent looking after his/her child).
- Age is correct and the Unpaid Child Care response is wrong. Respondents may have misunderstood the childcare question eg. considered grandchildren, other children in the extended family to be their 'own children' or did not realise that the question referred to only children who were less than 15 years of age, or mistakenly included children (over 15 years) with a disability
- Age is incorrect and Unpaid Child Care is correct (refer to the data quality statement for Age for further information about the quality of age data), or
- Neither variable is correct.
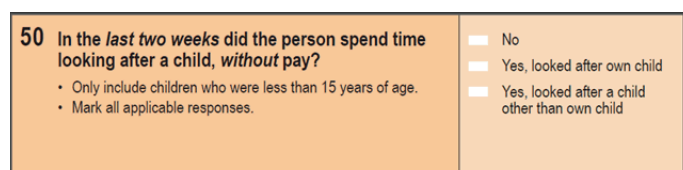
Further information

A definition of Unpaid Child Care is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary
For more information about Unpaid work, see the Glossary for Unpaid Work in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Additional sources of information regarding unpaid child care can be found in other ABS publications and associated collections, including Childhood Education and Care, Australia, June 2014 which refers to usual care arrangements for children aged 0-12 years. Care should be taken when comparing Census data on Unpaid Childcare with information from other surveys and publications. Definitions can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Household form question image

Question 50 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab

CITP Australian Citizenship

Australian Citizenship (CITP)

This variable records whether a person has Australian Citizenship and is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. Respondents were asked to mark only one response. In 0.1% of pre-processed data, respondents provided more than one response. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra responses were rejected. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

A question on national citizenship has been asked on every census since 1911. However, prior to 1986 the specific question wording may have asked to specify country of citizenship or their 'nationality' rather than ask if they were an Australian citizen. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 6.9% (6.0% in 2011).

Data usage notes

Data includes persons who stated a response to the citizenship question as Australian, but not a country of birth and vice versa. Of all the persons who did not state a citizenship, 14.9% reported their birthplace as Australia. Similarly, of all the persons who did not state a country of birth, 19.8% reported their citizenship as Australian. A possible explanation for this could be that respondents may have assumed their answer of citizenship or birthplace applicable across both questions.

Further information

A definition of Australian Citizenship is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 11 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CTGP Child Type (including grandchildren)

Child Type (including grandchildren) (CTGP)

This variable records the different parent-child relationship within families. It differs from the standard Child Type variable in that it recognises grandparent-grandchild relationships as parent-child relationships, regardless of the age of the grandchild. It is applicable to all children.

How this variable is created

In the 2016 Census, data on the relationships people have with others in the same dwelling is mainly derived from the Relationship in Household question on the Census Household Form, which asks for each person's relationship to Person 1 on the form. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

Child Type (including grandchildren) was created in 2011. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Child Type (including grandchildren) does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Grandparent families are recognised where there is a grandparent-grandchild relationship present and no parent-child relationship present in a family. Where a parent is temporarily absent from the family, and their relationship reported does not confirm their relationship to their child (for example, if person 1 is not a member of their family nucleus) that parent-child relationship cannot be coded. This can result in a small number of children being reported as grandchildren when a parent is simply absent on Census night.

Users should note that grandparent-grandchild relationships are constructed for the purposes of family coding in order to create a statistical family. It may not be representative of who provides care, for example a grandparent caring for their grandchild or vice versa.

There are three variables in Census data that describe grandparent/grandchild relationships. These are shown in the table below with reference to the standard Census variables.

Standard variables	Grandparent variables
RLHP (Relationship in Household)	RLGP (Relationship in Household, including grandchildren)
FMCF (Family Composition)	FMGF (Grandparent Families)
CTPP (Child Type)	CTGP (Child Type, including grandchildren)

While the standard and grandparent variables are similar, there are differences in the way data is processed. The table below shows how grandparent/grandchild relationships are classified under the standard variables compared with the grandparent variables.

	Standard variables	Grandparent variables
Person aged 15 years or more and has relationship of grandchild	Person is classified as 'other relative'.	Person is classified as a 'type of child' with a relationship of dependent student' or 'non-dependent child'.
A sole grandparent in the family	Family is classified as 'other family'.	Family is classified as 'lone parent'.
A grandparent couple	Family is classified as 'couple family with no children and with relatives'.	Family is classified as 'couple family with children'.

Due to these differences, Child Type (including grandchildren) should only be used in conjunction with other related grandparent/grandchild classifications.

Further information

A definition for Child Type (including grandchildren) is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more related information for Child Type (including grandchildren), see data quality statements Child Type, Relationship in Household, Relationship in Household and Grandparent Families.

Household form question image

Question 5 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CTPP Child Type

Child Type (CTPP)

This variable records the different parent-child relationships within families. It is applicable to all persons in family households who are identified as being a child.

How this variable is created

In the Census, data on child/parent relationships within a dwelling is mainly derived from the Relationship in Household question on the Census Household Form, which asks for each person's relationship to Person 1 on the form. An image of this question is provided below.

All persons aged under 15 years are regarded as children. Persons aged over 15 years are only regarded as children if they are living with a natural, adoptive, step, foster or grandparent.

Children are classified as an 'Otherwise related child' when they live with another adult relative (e.g. older sibling, aunt, uncle), but no natural, adoptive, step-, foster- or grand-parent is identified within the dwelling. Children are classified as 'Unrelated child' when no relative is identified within the same dwelling.

In some cases, children are listed on the Census Household Form as Person 2. In this case, if both parents are usual residents, the response 'Child of both Person 1 and Person 2' is not available in the relationship question (question 5) for Person 2. Coders attempt to establish whether the child was a step child or child of both parents using other information such as surname.

Variable history

A question on the relationships between members of a household has been asked in all censuses since 1911, and a variable about the type of child or offspring has been output since 1991. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Child Type does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Priority is given to identifying those relationships which form a 'family nucleus', i.e. partnerships and parent/child relationships and for many households, identifying relationships to assist the coding of family or household structure for that dwelling is quite straightforward. However, across the community, a wide variety of living arrangements exists and family structures can be complex and dynamic in nature, and so the quality of family data in the Census is partly dependent on people's ability to describe these relationships within the constraints of the generalised questionnaire format required by a Census. This is particularly the case for those dwellings containing blended families or multiple generations of a family.

Further information

A definition for Child Type is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information on the related data item, see Relationship in Household.

Household form question image

Question 5 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form paper is available from the Downloads tab.

DOMP Unpaid Domestic Work Number of Hours

Unpaid Domestic Work: Number of Hours (DOMP)

For each person aged 15 years and over, this variable records the number of hours spent performing unpaid domestic work. It includes work that the person did without pay, in their own home and in other places, for themselves, their family and other people in the household, in the week prior to Census night. It is applicable to all persons 15 years and over.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. In 2.5% of preprocessed data, respondents provided more than the required one response. Where more than one response was marked, the 'Yes' response with the highest number of hours was accepted over any other responses, including any 'No' response. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

Questions on unpaid work, including unpaid domestic work, were first asked in the 2006 Census. These questions were repeated for 2011 and 2016. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

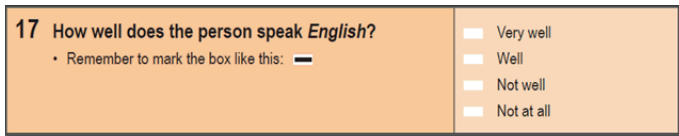The non-response rate for this variable was 8.8% (8.5% in 2011).

Data usage notes

This variable records information on unpaid work done for the person's own household, including the number of hours spent doing this work. Information on the number of hours spent was collected in ranges (see 2016 Household form image of the question) and referred to the week prior to the Census to assist recall of the amount of time spent on these activities.

Further information

A definition of Unpaid Domestic Work Number of Hours is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information about Unpaid work, see the Glossary for Unpaid Work in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 48 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form paper is available from the Downloads tab.

EETP Engagement in Employment, Education and Training

Engagement in Employment, Education and Training (EETP)

This variable classifies a person's participation in work and/or study. This variable is applicable to persons aged 15 years and over.

How this variable is created

Engagement in Employment, Education and Training is a new person variable that is created based on responses to the Age, Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status, Labour Force Status and Hours Worked questions on the Census form. Images of these questions are provided below.

It classifies persons as Engaged or Not engaged in work and study according to the criteria outlined below.

Engagement in Employment, Education and Training categories	People included in this category
Fully engaged	People engaged full-time in work or study People engaged in both work and study (regardless of hours for each)
Partially engaged	People employed or studying part-time (and not engaged in both work and study) Examples: - Employed part-time and not attending an educational institution - Studying part-time and either unemployed or not in the labour force
At least partially engaged	People engaged in study or in the labour force, but did not provide enough information to determine if they were fully or partially engaged Example Person who was studying part-time but who did not state their labour force status
Not engaged	People who are unemployed or not in the labour force (and not attending an educational institution)
Engagement status undetermined / Not stated	People who did not state their student status and who were either unemployed or not in the labour force This category also includes persons who were non-responding (not stated) for both their student status and their labour force status

Variable history

This is a new variable for 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Engagement in Employment, Education and Training does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Further information

A definition of Engagement in Employment, Education and Training is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For further information on variables used to create Engagement in Employment, Education and Training, see the data quality statements for Age, Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status, Labour Force Status and Hours Worked.

Household form question image

Data for this variable is derived from the following questions on the Census Household Form:

- Question 4, which is used to determine Age,
- Question 24, which is used to determine Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status,
- Questions 34, 35, 44, 46, and 47, which are used to determine Labour Force Status, and
- Question 44, which is used to determine Hours Worked.

Questions as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

34 *Last week,* did the person have a job of any kind?

- Mark one box only.
- A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, part-time or full-time work, if it was for one hour or more.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬
- ⓘ Go to **census.abs.gov.au** for more information.

☐ Yes, worked for payment or profit
☐ Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down
☐ Yes, unpaid work in a family business ▶ Go to 38
☐ Yes, other unpaid work ▶ Go to 46
☐ No, did not have a job ▶ Go to 46

35 In the main job held *last week,* was the person:

- Mark one box only.
- If the person had more than one job last week, then 'main job' refers to the job in which the person usually works the most hours.
- For all persons conducting their own business, including those with their own incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd) company, as well as sole traders, partnerships and contractors, mark the second box.

☐ Working for an employer? ▶ Go to 38
☐ Working in own business? ▶ Go to 36

44 *Last week,* how many hours did the person work in all jobs?

- Add any overtime or extra time worked and subtract any time off.

☐☐ Hours worked
☐ None

46 Did the person *actively* look for work at any time in the *last four weeks*?

- Full-time work means 35 hours or more per week.
- Examples of *actively* looking for work include:
  - writing, telephoning or applying to an employer for work;
  - having a job interview;
  - checking or registering with an employment agency;
  - taking steps to purchase or start own business;
  - advertising or tendering for work;
  - contacting friends or relatives in order to obtain work.

☐ No, did not look for work ▶ Go to 48
☐ Yes, looked for full-time work
☐ Yes, looked for part-time work

47 If the person had found a job, could the person have started work *last week*?

- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

☐ Yes, could have started work last week
☐ No, already had a job to go to
☐ No, temporarily ill or injured
☐ No, other reason

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

EMPP Number of Employees

Number of Employees (EMPP)

This variable describes the number of employees (in ranges) employed by owner-managers. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years and over, who are owner managers of incorporated or unincorporated enterprises.

How this variable is created

Number of Employees is a person variable that is created based on the response to the question of whether their business employs people. An image of this question is provided below.

Respondents use a mark box to indicate the number of employees. In 0.1% of pre-processed data, people had marked more than one response. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra response was rejected.

Variable history

Number of Employees is used to help understand the nature of self-employment (whether working on own account, or as an employer), and the characteristics of small business owners.

The question relating to number of employees was first asked in the 2006 Census, and has been asked in each census since then. The number of employees employed in a business is used to help understand whether the business employs people who are not owners. For the 2016 Census a slight change was made to the question to indicate that owner-managers should exclude themselves from the count of people they employ.

Non-response rate

Unlike most Census variables, the non-response rate for Number of Employees is not affected by persons who did not return a Census form because this variable is only applicable to persons with a Status of Employment as owner/managers of incorporated and unincorporated enterprises. Persons who did not respond, and are imputed, have a Status of Employment of 'not stated' and fall into the 'not applicable' category for Number of employees. For more information see the Glossary entry in the 2016 Census Dictionary. For more information about non-response rates, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 1.2% (1.7% in 2011).

Data usage notes

The number of employees question was asked for the first time in the 2016 Census on the Interviewer Household Form, a form type primarily used in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia.

The number of persons for which the question was applicable to in the 'nil employees' category has increased in 2016 to 56.9% (39.9% in 2011 and 40.3% in 2006).This could be due to the rewording of the instructions to 'Exclude owner/s of the business' when answering the question.

Further information

A definition of Number of Employees is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Number of Employees, see data quality statements for Status in Employment and Labour Force Status.

Household form question image

Question 37 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

ENGLP Proficiency in Spoken English Language

Proficiency in Spoken English/Language (ENGLP)

This variable classifies a person's self assessed proficiency in spoken English. It is applicable to all persons.

How the variable is created

This variable is derived from the responses to questions 'Does the person speak a language other than English at home?' and 'How well does the person speak English?' on the Census Household Form. These questions ask if a person speaks a language other than English at home and, if so, how well they speak English. Images of these questions are provided below.

Variable history

A question relating to proficiency in speaking English was first asked in 1981. Prior to this, some censuses had also asked what languages were regularly used. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Proficiency in Spoken English Language does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Further information

A definition for Proficiency in Spoken English Language is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information related to Proficiency in Spoken English Language, see data quality statements for Proficiency in Spoken English and Language Spoken at Home.

Household Census question images

Two Census questions are used to capture data for this variable. Questions 16 and 17 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

ENGP Proficiency in Spoken English

Proficiency in Spoken English (ENGP)

This variable classifies a persons self assessed proficiency in spoken English. It is applicable to those persons who provided a language other than English in the question on 'Language Spoken at Home' (LANP) or those who did not state a language.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. For Proficiency in Spoken English, respondents asked to only mark one response. In 0.6% of pre-processed data, respondents provided an incorrect number of responses. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra responses were rejected. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

The question has been asked for all censuses since 1981. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

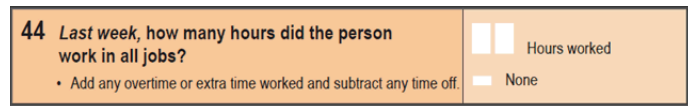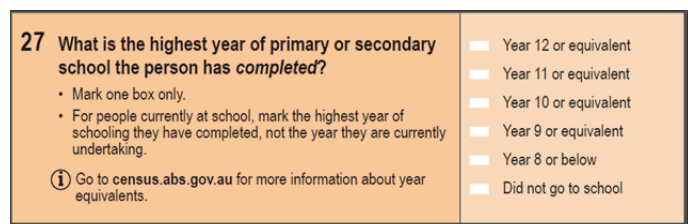The non-response rate for this variable was 1.1% (1.3% in 2011).

Further information

A definition of Proficiency in Spoken English is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary (cat. no. 2901.0).
For more information related to Proficiency in Spoken English see data quality statement for Language Spoken at Home (LANP)

Household form question image

Question 17 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form paper is available from the Downloads tab.

GNGP Public Private Sector

Public/Private Sector Indicator (GNGP)

This variable classifies employed people according to whether they are employed in the government (public) or non-government (private) sector. The public sector is further broken down into National, State and Territory or Local Government. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older who list their employment status as 'employed'.

How this variable is created

Public/Private Sector Indicator data is derived from responses to a number of questions on the form. Images of these questions are provided below.

It is closely linked with those questions used to determine Industry of Employment. These questions include:

- Question 40 The business name of the person's employer.
- Question 41 The workplace address of the person's employer.
- Question 42 The type of industry the person identifies with.
- Question 43 The main goods or services produced by the person's employer.

Data for GNGP is captured automatically from written numeric responses to these questions. This process is subject to low levels of recognition error. The data are subject to sample checks to ensure an acceptable level of quality.

In 2011, GNGP was autocoded along with Industry (INDP) using versions of ABS's Business Register, however this was reliant on respondents reporting Business Name correctly. In cases where GNGP could not be determined through autocoding, responses were examined by ABS clerical staff and independently assessed for a GNGP code. Responses were coded to 'private' in the absence of any information suggesting that a 'government' classification was more appropriate.

In 2016 there was a change to coding GNGP. GNGP coding was conducted along the same lines as the 2006 process where records were autocoded in order to assign an Industry ANZSIC code. This ANZSIC code was then used to assign a GNGP code via an automated Index process. Where responses were not assigned a GNGP code automatically, they were coded manually using the Groomed Business Name Index. Additional to this, there were 8 ANZSIC codes that were excluded from the automated GNGP process due to the variation of the industry sector. These were primarily in the health and education industries. Those particular codes were then manually assigned a GNGP code using information available on the Business Register Integrated Management system.

Targeted supplementary questions (TSQ) were introduced in the 2016 online Census form for Industry and were also subject to GNGP coding. Form more information on TSQ for Industry, refer to Industry of Employment (INDP) quality statement.

Variable history

While questions on what industry people are employed in has been asked in all censuses since 1911, a separate variable to classify the sector as public or private was first provided for the 1971 Census. In 2016 this variable was renamed from 'Public/Private Employer Indicator' which was used in 2011.

Over time the name of this variable has changed, but the meaning and the purpose of the question has remained the same.

- 1971 Industry Sector (GOVT)
- 1976 - 2006 Industry Sector (GNGP) - *noting that in 1996-2001 a category for Community Development Employment Program was included*
- 2011-2016 Public/Private Employer Indicator (GNGP)

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Public/Private Sector Indicator does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

In 2011, the responses for the the Industry category 'Public Administration, nfd' (Industry classification code 7500) were classified as 'Private sector' for the Public/Private Sector Indicator (GNGP) variable, rather than the other non-private categories Similarly, 2.0% of the responses for the Industry category 'Defence' (Industry classification code 7600) were classified as 'Private sector' for the Public/Private Sector Indicator (GNGP).

In 2016, responses for these two categories of 'Public Administration, nfd' are still classified as 'Private Sector', and 'Defence'.

Further information

A definition of Public/Private Sector Indicator is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Public/Private Sector Indicator, see data quality statements for Industry of Employment and Labour Force Status.

Household form question image

Data for this variable is derived from questions 40 to 43 on the Census Household Form.

Questions 40, 41, 42 and 43 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

40 For the main job held *last week,* what was the employer's business name?
- For self-employed persons, write the name of the person's business.
- For teachers, write the name of the school.

Business name

41 For the main job held *last week,* what was the person's workplace address?
- For persons who usually worked from home, write the home address.
- For persons with no fixed place of work:
  - if the person usually travels to a depot to start work, write the depot address;
  - otherwise write 'NONE' in 'Suburb/Locality' box.
- This information is used to calculate daytime populations and to plan transport activities.

(i) Go to **census.abs.gov.au** for more information.

Street number

Street name

Suburb/Locality

State/Territory   Postcode

Property/Building name (if any)

42 What best describes the *industry* or *business* of the employer at the location where the person works?
- Examples for industry or business of the employer: SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION, GOLD MINING, IT CONSULTING SERVICE, DOMESTIC CLEANING SERVICE, APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION.

(i) Go to **census.abs.gov.au** for more information.

Industry/business of the employer

43 What are the *main* goods produced or *main* services provided by the employer's *business*?
- Describe as fully as possible, using two words or more.
- For example: PROVIDING EDUCATION TO SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, MINING GOLD ORE, PROVIDING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADVICE, HOUSE CLEANING, CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS.

Goods produced/services provided

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HEAP Level of Highest Educational Attainment

Level of Highest Educational Attainment (HEAP)

This variable is a single measure of a person's overall highest educational attainment, whether it be a school or non-school qualification. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years and over.

How this variable is created

Level of Highest Educational Attainment is derived using a combination of two variables: Highest Year of School Completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education. These two variables are coded using the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001, Level of Education Classification. Images of the questions used to derive Level of Highest Educational Attainment are provided below.

The following decision table (Table 1) describes how Level of Highest Educational Attainment was derived for 2016.

Table 1: Derivation of Level of Highest Educational Attainment - Decision Table

	Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP)								
Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP)	Certificate nfd (500)	Certificate III & IV nfd (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I & II nfd (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)	Level of education inadequately described (011)	Level of education not stated (&&&)
Year 12 (1)	Inadequately described(a)	Certificate III & IV, nfd	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12	Inadequately described	Not stated
Year 11 (2)	Inadequately described(b)	Certificate III & IV, nfd	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11	Inadequately described	Not stated
Year 10 (3)	Inadequately described(c)	Certificate III & IV, nfd	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Year 10	Year 10	Inadequately described	Not stated
Year 9 (4)	Inadequately described(d)	Certificate III & IV, nfd	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I & II nfd	Certificate I & II nfd	Certificate I	Inadequately described	Not stated
Year 8 or below (5)	Inadequately described(e)	Certificate III & IV, nfd	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I & II nfd	Certificate II	Certificate I	Inadequately described	Not stated
Did not go to school (6)	Inadequately described(e)	Certificate III & IV, nfd	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I & II nfd	Certificate II	Certificate I	Not stated	Not stated
Not stated (&)	Not stated	Certificate III & IV, nfd	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated	Not stated

nfd: not further defined
note: number in brackets refer to the classification code used for Highest Year of School Completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education.
(a) In 2011 Census, a person with this combination of Highest Year of School completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education was assigned Year 12.
(b) In 2011 Census, a person with this combination of Highest Year of School completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education was assigned Year 11.

(c) In 2011 Census, a person with this combination of Highest Year of School completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education was assigned Year 10.
(d) In 2011 Census, a person with this combination of Highest Year of School completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education was assigned Year 9.
(e) In 2011 Census, a person with this combination of Highest Year of School completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education was assigned Year 8 or below

Variable history

While questions regarding educational qualifications in general have been asked for every census since 1911, Level of Highest Educational Attainment, which combines measures of school and non-school education, was first used in 2006. Changes have been made in 2016 which are explained below.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Level of Highest Educational Attainment does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Administrative data

Level of Highest Educational Attainment is derived from Highest Year of School Completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education. However, for people who were in prisons on Census night, Level of Highest Educational Attainment was sourced directly through administrative data. So the underlying data for Highest Year of School Completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education are 'not stated' for these records.

Inadequately described

Counts of people with a Level of Highest Educational Attainment category of 'Inadequately described' has increased to 2.7% 2016 (1.4% in 2011). This is because there has been a change in the way this variable is derived in 2016.

In 2011, people with Highest Year of School Completed of Year 8 or below to Year 12 and a Certificate not further defined were assigned a Level of Highest Educational Attainment the same as their highest year of school completed. However, in 2016, people with Highest Year of School Completed of Year 8 or below to Year 12 and a Certificate not further defined were assigned a Level of Highest Educational Attainment as 'Inadequately described'.

Further information

A definition of Level of Highest Educational Attainment is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Level of Highest Educational Attainment, see data quality statements for Highest Year of School Completed and Non-School Qualification: Level of Education.

Household form question image

Questions 27, 28, 29 and 30 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HRSP Hours Worked

Hours Worked (HRSP) and Hours Worked in ranges (HRWRP)

This variable records the number of hours worked in all jobs held during the week prior to Census night by employed people. This excludes any time off but includes overtime and extra time worked. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older who list their employment status as 'employed'.

How this variable is created

Data for this variable is captured automatically from written numeric responses, or the 'None' mark box, from the question on the Census paper form. This process is subject to low levels of recognition error and so the data is subject to sample checks to ensure an acceptable level of quality. In addition, outlying values are checked manually to ensure that they match the actual response on the form. The data may include a small proportion of persons with an unusual number of hours worked, as all numeric responses are accepted as reported. An image of the question is provided below.

Variable history

The question relating to Hours Worked was first asked in the 1966 Census. In 1971, 1976 and since 1996, the hours worked question has focused on hours worked in all jobs

held in the week prior to the Census. The Hours Worked (ranges) variable was first introduced for the 2011 Census. One change was made to this question for the 2016 Census - the 'None' mark box from the question was removed from the online version of the Census form.

Non-response rate

Unlike most Census variables, the non-response rate for Hours Worked is not affected by persons who did not return a Census form because this variable is only applicable to persons with a labour force status of 'employed'. Persons who do not respond to the labour force status questions have a labour force status of *not stated* and fall in the 'not applicable' category within Hours Worked variable. For more information about non-response rates, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 1.9% (2.2% in 2011).

Further information

A definition of Hours Worked is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
Hours Worked in ranges is also available. A definition of Hours Worked (ranges) is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to the use of Hours Worked in determining full/part-time status for employment, see the data quality statement for Labour Force Status.

Household form question image

Question 44 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HSCP Highest Year of School Completed

Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP)

This variable records the highest level of primary or secondary schooling a person has completed and is applicable to all persons aged 15 years and over.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. Respondents are asked to only mark one response. In 1.0% of pre-processed data, respondents provided more than one response. In these cases responses were accepted in the order they appear on the form and extra responses are rejected. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

The question relating to Highest Year of School Completed, where respondents reported their highest level of education attainment was first asked in the 1911 Census. The question related to highest level of education attainment was asked again in 1966 and 1971 and has been asked in every Census since 2001.

Some minor adjustment to the wording of the question instructions was made in 2016 for the purposes of clarity.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 8.6% (8.4 % in 2011).

Further information

This item is coded using the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001.
A definition for HSCP is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 27 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

INCP Total Personal Income (weekly)

Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP)

This variable records the total income (in ranges) a person usually receives each week. It is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older.

How this variable is created

Income data is captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. For Total Personal Income (weekly), respondents are asked to only mark one response. In 4.9% of pre-processed data, respondents provided more than one response. In these cases responses are accepted in the order they appear on the form and the extra responses are rejected. An image of this question is provided below.

Income ranges are designed to be an even split or even distribution, which is why they change over time with wages/salary growth. They are adjusted each Census to reflect real-world increases in wages and are based on 2013-2014 Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) where person income is collected in actual dollar amounts.

Variable history

Questions on income were first included in the Census in 1933 and have been asked in each Census since 1976. In 2006, this variable was referred to as 'Individual Income

(weekly)'. Income ranges were updated in 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 9.0% compared to 7.9% in 2011.

Data usage notes

Even though the Census and other ABS surveys, such as the Survey of Income and Housing (cat. no. 6553.0) and Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2011-2015 (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) collect similar data relating to personal income, they are not directly comparable. This is due to differences in scope, collection methodology, the time period the collection relates to, and conceptual differences. It is therefore likely that data from each of these collections will deliver different outcomes making it important for data users to understand the key conceptual differences between each collection in order to most appropriately use it.

The key differences between these collections are outlined in the table below.

Key differences between income data from the Census, Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, and the Survey of Income and Housing

	Census	Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas (EoPI)	Survey of Income and Housing (SIH)
Reference period	9 August 2016	2010/11 – 2014/15 Financial Years	2013-2014 financial year
Scope of collection	All people aged 15 years and over (approximately 20 million people)	People who have earned income and have been recorded by the ATO (approximately 13 million records per year)	A sample of 14,162 households
Collection methodology	People are asked to self-report their income by marking a check box against a pre-defined income range.	Administrative data. Records income to the dollar value.	Interview based
Conceptual differences	Census asks people to include all the income they receive when answering the income question. As the collection is self-reported, it relies on people answering the question (some people do not state an income) and reporting accurately (for example, some people may not consider government pensions or superannuation a source of income, and some people may not report small amounts (e.g. $1-$149))	Income not reported to the ATO is not captured in Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas and the scope of the ATO statistics exclude Government pensions, benefits or allowances. Low income earners, for example those receiving Government pensions and allowances, or those who earned below the tax free threshold (which rose from $6,000 to $18,200 in 2012-13), may not be present in the data, as they may not be required to lodge personal tax forms. Other individuals may not lodge a tax return even if required.	The Survey of Income and Housing has a series of detailed questions asked of every person 15 years and older in the household. This draws out more detail than the Census does about the types and sources of income each person receives. It is likely therefore to better capture small weekly incomes (between $1 and $149 a week) and better identify income from Government payments/supplements, amounts from investments, lump sums, financial assistance from family members outside the household, as well as interest from bank accounts. While the Census asks for usual income, the Survey of Income and Housing collects actual and usual income.
Produced	Every 5 years	Every financial year	Every 2 years

Negative income in the Census includes people who own their own business and report negative income due to losses or negative gearing of rentals.

Deriving household and family income

Individual Income data is used to derive the following household and family income variables. This is done by summing each person's income within a dwelling or a family by applying a median value (derived using data from the Survey of Income and Housing) to each of the ranges.

- Total Household Income (weekly)
- Total Household Income as Stated (weekly)
- Equivalised Total Household Income (weekly)
- Household Income Derivation Indicator

- Total Family Income (weekly)
- Total Family Income as Stated (weekly)
- Family Income Derivation Indicator

Further information

A definition of Total Personal Income (weekly) is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For further explanatory notes to the other ATO supplied Income data sources see, Estimate of Personal Income for Small Areas, 2011-2015
For further information about the concepts, definitions, methodology and estimation procedures used in SIH, please refer to Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide.
For an analysis of the issues associated with collecting income data via a Census, including comparisons with other data sources, refer to Census Paper 03/04 - Income, 2001. This analysis was conducted on the 2001 Census data.

Household form questions image

Question 33 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

33 What is the *total* of all income the person *usually* receives?

- Mark **one** box only.

- Do *not* deduct: tax, superannuation contributions, amounts salary sacrificed, or any other automatic deductions.

- Include:

Wages and salaries
- Regular overtime
- Commissions and bonuses

Government pensions, benefits and allowances
- Age pension
- Family tax benefit
- Parenting payment
- Disability support pension
- Newstart allowance
- Youth and student allowances
- Carer allowance
- Any other government pension/allowance

Profit or loss from
- Unincorporated business/farm (e.g. sole traders, partnerships)
- Rental properties

Other income
- Income from superannuation
- Private pensions
- Child support
- Interest
- Dividends from shares
- Workers' compensation
- Any other income

- Information from this question provides an indication of living standards in different areas.

(i) Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.

	$3,000 or more per week / $156,000 or more per year
	$2,000 - $2,999 per week / $104,000 - $155,999 per year
	$1,750 - $1,999 per week / $91,000 - $103,999 per year
	$1,500 - $1,749 per week / $78,000 - $90,999 per year
	$1,250 - $1,499 per week / $65,000 - $77,999 per year
	$1,000 - $1,249 per week / $52,000 - $64,999 per year
	$800 - $999 per week / $41,600 - $51,999 per year
	$650 - $799 per week / $33,800 - $41,599 per year
	$500 - $649 per week / $26,000 - $33,799 per year
	$400 - $499 per week / $20,800 - $25,999 per year
	$300 - $399 per week / $15,600 - $20,799 per year
	$150 - $299 per week / $7,800 - $15,599 per year
	$1 - $149 per week / $1 - $7,799 per year
	Nil income
	Negative income

A text only version of the Online Census is available from the Downloads tab.

INDP Industry of Employment

Industry of Employment (INDP)

This variable describes the industry in which employed people work. This variable is applicable to all employed persons aged 15 years or older.

The Census is designed as a snapshot of detailed information every 5 years. Changes are sometimes made to how the data is collected between Censuses. This page outlines a number of changes to how Industry of employment information was collected for the 2016 Census, including the implementation of targeted supplementary questions. Users should note that changes introduced for the 2016 Census mean that this data is not directly comparable to the previous Census Industry of employment data. The Labour Force Survey (cat. no. 6202.0) and the Labour Account (cat. no. 6150.0) are statistical collections designed to measure movements over time in industry, occupation and employment data for Australian workers. See The 2016 Census and the Labour Force Survey for further information on how to use these data sources for analysis and decision making.

How the variable is created

Industry of Employment is a person variable and is created based on write-in responses to four questions on the Census form. Images of these questions are provided below and include:

- The business name
- The address of a person's employer
- The type of industry
- The main goods or services produced by the business or their employer

Industry of Employment is coded to the Australian and New Zealand Standards Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (Revision 2.0).

To code the information, industry of employment is first obtained by matching business name and address responses to ABS lists of business names for which main industry activity is already known. The remaining responses are coded using write-in responses about type of industry and about main goods or services produced.

Industry coding is reliant on a variety of processes. All write-in responses for paper and online forms that contribute to industry coding are first auto-repaired before being sent through two autocoding indexes: the Groomed Business Name Index (GBNI) and the Activity index. These text repair and automatic coding process resulted in approximately 86.2% of all responses being coded automatically. The remaining 13.8% of records that did not successfully achieve a code in autocoding were examined by ABS clerical staff and independently assessed for an ANZSIC code.

Responses with insufficient information to assign an ANZSIC code are coded to 'Inadequately described'.

Variable history

The questions relating to Industry of Employment or similar were first asked in the 1911 Census and have been asked in all censuses since then. There were no changes to three of the four main questions used to to derive ANZSIC codes (i.e. questions 40, 41 and 43), though some changes were made to the examples used for question 43. The type of industry question (question 42 (paper form) and question 40 (online form)) was changed from having a combination of mark box and write-in responses to just being write-in.

Targeted supplementary questions (TSQs)

For online 2016 Census forms, the coding approach was different to paper forms for industry of employment responses. Targeted Supplementary Questions (TSQs) were introduced in the 2016 online forms to clarify responses for Industry and facilitate more accurate coding at the lower levels of the classifications. TSQs, which are prompted by 'trigger words' entered by the respondent, are predefined radio button questions which collect more details about industry from the respondent in addition to the response they initially provided. For example, if the word 'education' was entered as the industry or business of the employer for which the respondent works, then extra questions are asked about what type of education institution or business does the respondent's employer operate, i.e. Preschool, Primary school, Secondary school, Combined primary and secondary school, Special school, Technical college, Business college, University, Sporting institution, Performing arts school or Other (please specify).

The list of 'trigger words' and targeted supplementary questions was created by looking at common responses in the 'not further defined' coding categories from the 2011 Census data. 'Not further defined' category is used when there is insufficient information to code the response to a detailed category in the classification. A response of 'education' for example is not enough to code to a detailed industry such as Preschool or University and would be coded to the 'Education and Training, not further defined' category.

40a. What type of education institution or business does <person>'s employer operate?

➕ More Information

- ○ Preschool
- ○ Primary school
- ○ Secondary school
- ○ Combined primary and secondary school
- ○ Special school
- ○ Technical college
- ○ Business college
- ○ University
- ○ Sporting institution
- ○ Performing arts school
- ○ Other (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab and pages 33-40 include the Industry targeted supplementary questions.

Responses to targeted supplementary questions were coded without running them through the Groomed Business Name Index (GBNI). This is the only circumstance in the Industry coding where the Business Name response (if provided by the respondent) did not take priority over the other data fields.

Non-response rate

Unlike most Census variables, the non-response rate for Industry of Employment is not affected by persons who did not return a Census form because this variable is only applicable to persons with a labour force status of 'employed'. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 1.2% (1.1% in 2011).

Data usage notes

There have been impacts to the data from including targeted supplementary questions for the online Census form.

Decrease in not further defined counts for some industries

The 2011 Census form included check box options that respondents could mark and the instructions included examples of what falls in the 'Other - please specify' text box option.

With a write-in response option instead for 2016, 17.1% of all online responses (excluding 'other - please specify' responses) were coded to an ANZSIC category via the use of targeted supplementary questions. The targeted supplementary questions captured more detail at the ANZSIC classification 4 digit level, which helped reduce the 'not further defined' counts for 2016.

Alignment with 2011 Census high level industry mark-box options

Not all 2016 high-level industry categories were associated with targeted supplementary questions. Manufacturing, Wholesale and Community Service, which were mark boxes in the 2011 Census form, were not associated with any targeted supplementary questions. This highlights how different industries will be impacted unevenly by the use of targeted supplementary questions.

2011 Industry/Business check box options	2016 Trigger words for targeted supplementary questions
Manufacturing	*not applicable*
Wholesaling	*not applicable*
Retailing	'Retail, Retailing, Retailer, Retail store, Retail sales'
Accommodation	Hospitality' 'Tourism'
Cafe, restaurants and take-aways	'Hospitality'
Road freight transport	'Transport, Transportation, Driving'
House construction	'Construction, Building, Building construction, Building and construction'
Health service	'Health, Health care, Healthcare, Health service, Health services'
Community care service	*not applicable*
Other - please specify	

For the removed mark boxes in the 2016 online form, the possible impacts are outlined below:

- where the 2011 tick box was more general, there was a decrease in the 'not further defined' codes and an increase in detailed codes which is an improvement (e.g. Health).
- where the 2011 tick box was detailed, i.e. house construction (code 3011) and road freight transportation (code 4610), the decrease in these codes is significant and so are the increases in the related 'not further defined' codes.
- where there was not a targeted supplementary module with trigger words similar to the tick box that was removed, there were large drops in related 'not further defined' categories and some detailed codes.
- the addition of targeted supplementary questions to the online Census form helped improve coding for some industries, however there was also an overall increase in the proportion of responses that were 'Inadequately described' (which could not be coded or could only be coded with reduced detail) compared to 2011. The increase in inadequately described responses was also observed for paper forms. For 2016, counts of responses that were inadequately described comprised 3.2% of the data (compared to 1.2% in 2011).

Further information

A definition of Industry is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Industry, see data quality statements for Labour Force Status, Public/Private Sector and Occupation.

Household form question image

Questions 40, 41, 42 and 43 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

INGP Indigenous Status

Indigenous Status (INGP)

This variable provides responses of persons who identified themselves as being of Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. It is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. Where respondents identify with both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origins, they were instructed to mark both the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boxes. In cases where a respondent marked both 'No' and 'Yes' boxes, then the Indigenous Status was set to *not stated*. This treatment is differs to that used in the 2011 Census where if both 'No' and 'Yes' mark boxes were selected the responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra response was rejected. This change in treatment aligns with the Indigenous Status Standard, 2014, Version 1.5. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

A specific question regarding Indigenous Status was first asked in the 1971 Census, and has been asked in all censuses since then. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 6.0% (4.9% in 2011).

Data usage notes

As in the 2011 Census, in 2016 an Indigenous Enumeration Strategy was used in nominated discrete communities. This strategy was developed to enable the best possible coverage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and raise the quality of the count for this small but significant population group. In many nominated discrete communities, collection of Census information was primarily undertaken by an Interviewer, using a tailored Interviewer Household Form. In 2016, the proportion of people responding on Interviewer Household Forms within discrete communities was 92.1%. This was lower than previous Censuses (97.1% in 2011) due to increased flexibility in choice of how to respond to the Census. In areas outside of nominated discrete communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples were enumerated using standard procedures and forms.

The total number of people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin identified in the Census was 649,171 or 2.8% of the total population (compared with 548,368, or 2.5% of the total population in 2011). A large impact on counts comes from non-response because the total Not Stated count is almost twice the size of the count of people identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

The non-response rate for this item tends to be lower for forms used in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities due to the use of Interviewers to collect the information and scrutiny by other Census staff. Non-response for this variable is higher in non-private dwellings both because person non-response is higher and people, such as nursing home administrators, often don't know the answer when filling out the form for others.

Other sources of potential error in this variable are respondent error. There are a small number of respondent errors that come from misunderstanding and mistakes, and in some circumstances can be due to deliberate errors.

It is important to remember that this variable is collected through self-identification and any change in identification will affect the count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

In the 2016 Census, as in 2011, information on people who were in prison on Census night was provided from administrative data. As a result, 2016 Census data for people in the prison system is comparable with the 2011 Census, and there are almost no prisoners with a Not Stated Indigenous status. People in detention centres have been treated as non-Indigenous.

Further Information

A definition of Indigenous Status is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 7 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form paper is available from the Downloads tab.

LANP Language Spoken at Home

Language Spoken at Home (LANP)

This variable records responses to the Census question 'Does the person speak a language other than English at home?'. It is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

Language Spoken at Home is coded using the Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL). An image of this question is provided below.

Respondents may either use a mark box to indicate the language spoken at home or write the name of any other language in the text field. The majority of responses for Language Spoken at Home were captured automatically from the mark box response (87.9%). Written responses were coded using a combination of automatic reading and coding processes (11.2%). The remaining responses required manual coding processes when they could not be coded or derived automatically (0.9%).

If a response is not listed in the classification, it is coded to 'Inadequately described'. In 2016, 0.1% of data for Language Spoken at Home were coded to 'Inadequately described'.
In 0.9% of pre-processed data, people had either marked more than one language or had marked a language and also given a text response. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra response was rejected.

A minor review of the Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL) classification was conducted ahead of the 2016 Census. Changes were limited to: adding and removing languages; amending the names of some languages; and adding appropriate entries to the expanded structure and coding index. These changes were made based on 2011 Census data, research from external sources and stakeholder queries and suggestions. There were no changes to the broad level of the classification. More information on the changes is available in Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL).

Variable history

A question relating to languages spoken was first asked in the 1933 Census, but not again until the 1976 Census. All censuses since then have included a similar question.

In 2016, there was minor change to the language question involving reordering the list of mark boxes. This change was a result of analysis of Language data from the 2011 Census.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 6.5% (5.1% in 2011).

Further information

A definition of Language Spoken at Home is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Language Spoken at Home, see data quality statements for Proficiency in Spoken English and Proficiency in Spoken English/Language.

Household form question image

Question 16 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

Question 16 as it appeared on the 2011 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

LFHRP Labour Force Status and Hours Worked Not Stated

Labour Force Status and Hours Worked Not Stated (LFHRP)

This variable combines Labour Force Status (LFSP) with the 'Not stated' category from the Hours Worked (HRSP) variable to provide more detailed information on employed persons. This version is commonly released in the Census output product range. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older.

How this variable is created

This variable is derived by combining responses from the questions on Labour Force Status and Hours Worked. Images of these questions are provided below.

Labour Force Status is derived from responses to a number of questions on the form. Data is captured automatically from four mark box responses and from the written numeric response to the question asking how many hours the person worked in all jobs 'last week'. Occupation information may sometimes be used. Images of the questions are provided below.

Hours Worked is captured automatically from written numeric responses, or the 'None' mark box, from question 44 on the Census Household Form. This process is subject to low levels of recognition error. In addition, outlying values are checked manually to ensure that they match the actual response on the form. The data may include a small proportion of persons with an unusual number of hours worked, as all numeric responses are accepted as reported.

Variable history

This variable was new for 2011 and has not changed in 2016. However, changes were made to the questions used to derive Labour Force Status and the 'none' box for Hours Worked was removed from the online Census form.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Labour Force Status and Hours Worked Not Stated does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Further information

A definition of Labour Force Status and Hours Worked Not Stated is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Labour Force Status and Hours Worked Not Stated, see the data quality statements for Labour Force Status and Hours Worked.

Household form question image

Data for this variable is mainly derived from questions 34, 35, 44, 46 and 47. Occupation questions 38 and 39 may also be used.

Questions 34, 35, 44, 46, 47, 38 and 39 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

44 *Last week,* how many hours did the person work in all jobs?
- Add any overtime or extra time worked and subtract any time off.

Hours worked

None

46 Did the person *actively* look for work at any time in the *last four weeks*?
- Full-time work means 35 hours or more per week.
- Examples of *actively* looking for work include:
  - writing, telephoning or applying to an employer for work;
  - having a job interview;
  - checking or registering with an employment agency;
  - taking steps to purchase or start own business;
  - advertising or tendering for work;
  - contacting friends or relatives in order to obtain work.

No, did not look for work ▶ Go to 48

Yes, looked for full-time work

Yes, looked for part-time work

47 If the person had found a job, could the person have started work *last week*?
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

Yes, could have started work last week

No, already had a job to go to

No, temporarily ill or injured

No, other reason

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

LFSP Labour Force Status

Labour Force Status (LFSP)

This variable records a person's labour force status for the week prior to Census night. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older.

How this variable is created

Labour Force Status is derived from responses to a number of questions on the Census form. Data is captured automatically from four mark box responses and from the written numeric response from the question asking how many hours a person worked. Occupation information may sometimes be used. Images of these questions are provided below.

Variable history

Questions relating to Labour Force Status were first asked in the 1911 Census with response categories revised in 2006 to align more closely with ABS labour force concepts. Minor changes were made in 2016 to two of the five questions that contribute to the Labour Force Status variable. Minor changes were also made to the instructions on the online Census Household form. The 2016 text only version of the online form is available from the Downloads tab.

The 2011 question asked if the person had a full-time or part-time job last week, while 2016 just asks if they had a job of any kind. This change was to simplify the question and improve data quality.

2011 question

34 *Last week,* did the person have a full-time or part-time job of any kind?
- Mark one box only.
- A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, or part-time work, if it was for one hour or more.
- Remember to mark box like this: ▬
- (i) Visit **www.abs.gov.au/censushelp** for more information.

Yes, worked for payment or profit

Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down

Yes, unpaid work in a family business ▶ Go to 38

Yes, other unpaid work ▶ Go to 46

No, did not have a job ▶ Go to 46

2016 question

34 *Last week,* did the person have a job of any kind?
- Mark one box only.
- A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, part-time or full-time work, if it was for one hour or more.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬
- (i) Go to **census.abs.gov.au** for more information.

Yes, worked for payment or profit

Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down

Yes, unpaid work in a family business ▶ Go to 38

Yes, other unpaid work ▶ Go to 46

No, did not have a job ▶ Go to 46

In 2016, the question was re-formatted to emphasise the word '*actively*' using italics and to provide examples of what 'actively looking for work' includes. Note also the inclusion of a definition of full time work.

2011 question

46 Did the person actively look for work at any time in the *last four weeks*?
- Examples of actively looking for work include: being registered with Centrelink as a job seeker; checking or registering with any other employment agency; writing, telephoning or applying in person to an employer for work; or advertising for work.

No, did not look for work ▶ Go to 48

Yes, looked for full-time work

Yes, looked for part-time work

2016 question

46 Did the person *actively* look for work at any time in the *last four weeks*?

- Full-time work means 35 hours or more per week.
- Examples of *actively* looking for work include:
  - writing, telephoning or applying to an employer for work;
  - having a job interview;
  - checking or registering with an employment agency;
  - taking steps to purchase or start own business;
  - advertising or tendering for work;
  - contacting friends or relatives in order to obtain work.

☐ No, did not look for work ▶ Go to 48
☐ Yes, looked for full-time work
☐ Yes, looked for part-time work

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Labour force status does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

2011 versus 2016 Census data comparison

Table 1 below shows the number of people counted across the Labour Force Status question categories in 2011 and 2016. Minor changes to questions, as described above, may have resulted in some differences in reporting between 2011 and 2016.

Table 1 Labour force status counts in 2011 and 2016.

	Census 2011		Census 2016	
	Number of Persons	%	Number of Persons	%
Employed, worked full-time	6,367,555	38.9%	6,623,065	37.3%
Employed, worked full-time	3,062,977	18.7%	3,491,503	19.6%
Employed, away from work	627,798	3.8%	569,276	3.2%
Employed Total	10,058,325	61.4%	10,683,842	60.1%
Unemployed, looking for full-time work	357,871	2.2%	447,650	2.5%
Unemployed, looking for part-time work	242,264	1.5%	339,804	1.9%
Unemployed Total	600,134	3.7%	787,452	4.4%
Labour Force	10,658,456	65.0%	11,471,294	64.6%
Not in the labour force	5,729,306	35.0%	6,297,600	35.4%
Total	16,387,766	100.0%	17,768,892	100.0%

Community Development Programme

The 2006 and 2011 Interviewer Household Forms (IHF), which were used in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, included a category for those participating in the Community Development Employment Projects scheme. In 2016, the form was updated to include a response category for people who participated in the 2016 Community Development Programme. A person's response to the question on the Interviewer Household Form, in conjunction with responses to other labour force questions on the form, were used to assign a labour force status.

As part of the changes from Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme in 2011 to Community Development Programme (CDP) in 2016, payment arrangements for participants were changed, which changed the nature of their labour force status.

For more information about the Community Development Programme and how the classification of labour force for participants has changed, see the data quality statement for Community Development Programme Participation and the Glossary entry in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Comparing Census with ABS Labour Force Survey

The Census of Population and Housing (Census) and Labour Force Survey (LFS) both collect information about the labour market activity of people aged 15 years and over. While both collections seek to measure the concepts related employment, unemployment and being outside of the labour force, there are a number of differences between them that should be considered in the use of the data.

For further information on the use of Census labour force data compared with data from the Labour Force Survey, and differences between the collections, see the 2016 Census and the Labour Force Survey page in this publication.

Further information

A definition of Labour Force Status is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information related to Labour Force Statistics, see data quality statements for Hours Worked and Labour Force Status and Hours Worked Not Stated.

Household form question image

Questions 34, 44, 46, and 47 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

34 *Last week,* did the person have a job of any kind?

- Mark one box only.
- A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, part-time or full-time work, if it was for one hour or more.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬
- ⓘ Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.

☐ Yes, worked for payment or profit
☐ Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down
☐ Yes, unpaid work in a family business ▶ Go to 38
☐ Yes, other unpaid work ▶ Go to 46
☐ No, did not have a job ▶ Go to 46

35 In the main job held *last week*, was the person:
- Mark one box only.
- If the person had more than one job last week, then 'main job' refers to the job in which the person usually works the most hours.
- For all persons conducting their own business, including those with their own incorporated (e.g. Pty Ltd) company, as well as sole traders, partnerships and contractors, mark the second box.

☐ Working for an employer? ▶ Go to 38
☐ Working in own business? ▶ Go to 36

44 *Last week,* how many hours did the person work in all jobs?
- Add any overtime or extra time worked and subtract any time off.

☐ Hours worked
☐ None

46 Did the person *actively* look for work at any time in the *last four weeks*?
- Full-time work means 35 hours or more per week.
- Examples of *actively* looking for work include:
  - writing, telephoning or applying to an employer for work;
  - having a job interview;
  - checking or registering with an employment agency;
  - taking steps to purchase or start own business;
  - advertising or tendering for work;
  - contacting friends or relatives in order to obtain work.

☐ No, did not look for work ▶ Go to 48
☐ Yes, looked for full-time work
☐ Yes, looked for part-time work

47 If the person had found a job, could the person have started work *last week*?
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

☐ Yes, could have started work last week
☐ No, already had a job to go to
☐ No, temporarily ill or injured
☐ No, other reason

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

MDCP Social Marital Status

Social Marital Status (MDCP)

This variable records a person's relationship status based on their current living arrangement, in terms of whether they form a couple relationship with another person living in the same usual residence, and the nature of that relationship. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years and over.

How this variable is created

Data on the relationships people have with others in the same dwelling, including de facto partnerships or social marriages, is derived from the relationship in household question on the Census Household Form, which asks for each person's relationship to Person 1 on the form. Images of these questions are provided below.

Person 1 is the 'reference person' for 93.4% of family reference persons and 98.9% of non-family reference persons. In the remaining cases, a more appropriate person on the form is chosen during clerical coding. For example, an adult is chosen rather than a child, or in the event of multiple family households additional reference persons are chosen.

In cases where some members of a household are away from home on Census Night, members of the family nucleus (partners, parents and children) and unrelated persons who were temporarily absent on Census Night are taken into account when deriving Social Marital Status. This allows for the further identification of some partnerships.

Where relationships information is insufficient to code Social Marital Status then Registered Marital Status may be used to help establish couple relationships. Additional information such as name and usual residence may also be used during data processing to help determine these relationships. Unless a social marriage is identified for a person, they are regarded as 'not married'.

Variable history

A question on Marital Status has been asked in every Census since 1911. A separate variable recording de-facto or social marital status was first created in 1986 and has been used in every census since then.
No changes were made to the question in 2016. However, change were made to the way responses were processed. Please refer to the Data usage notes section below.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Social Marital Status does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Reporting relationships in respect of Person 1 only, can make it difficult to establish all the relationships (including partnerships) which exist in a household. In addition, across the community, a wide variety of living arrangements exists and family structures can be complex and dynamic in nature, and so the identification of all de facto partnership in the Census is partly dependent on a persons ability to describe these relationships within the constraints of the generalised questionnaire format required by a Census.

In 2011 the Social Martial Status variable provided data about how a person is married in a 'social way' (i.e. their current living status), regardless of response to the Registered Marital Status.

In 2016 the processing of Social Marital Status was changed to align with ABS family standards. A social marital status of 'Married in a registered marriage' is defined as a person who lives with another person in a couple relationship and to whom he or she is also legally married to in a registered marriage.

Further information

A definition of Social Marital Status is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Social Marital Status, see data quality statement for Registered Marital Status and Relationship in Household.
For more information on ABS standards on Family, see Glossary of Family, Household and Income Unit Variables, 2014.

Household form question image

Questions 5, 6 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

5 **What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?**
- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

No answer required for Person 1

- Husband or wife of Person 1
- De facto partner of Person 1
- Child of Person 1
- Stepchild of Person 1
- Brother or sister of Person 1
- Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1

Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

6 **What is the person's present marital status?**
- 'Married' refers to registered marriages.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

- Never married
- Widowed
- Divorced
- Separated but not divorced
- Married

53 **For each person *away*, complete the following questions:**

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name Surname or family name	First or given name Surname or family name	First or given name Surname or family name
Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person away.	Male Female	Male Female	Male Female
What is the person's date of birth or age? • If date of birth not known, please give age. Example: Day Month Year 1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8 OR 4 8 Years	Day Month Year OR Age Years	Day Month Year OR Age Years	Day Month Year OR Age Years
Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	No Yes, Aboriginal Yes, Torres Strait Islander	No Yes, Aboriginal Yes, Torres Strait Islander	No Yes, Aboriginal Yes, Torres Strait Islander
Is the person a full-time student?	No Yes	No Yes	No Yes
What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2? • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.	Husband or wife of Person 1 De facto partner of Person 1 Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 Child of Person 1 only Child of Person 2 only Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	Husband or wife of Person 1 De facto partner of Person 1 Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 Child of Person 1 only Child of Person 2 only Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	Husband or wife of Person 1 De facto partner of Person 1 Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 Child of Person 1 only Child of Person 2 only Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

MSTP Registered Marital Status

Registered Marital Status (MSTP, IFMSTP)

This variable records a person's formal registered marital status and refers to the legal status of the person. This may not necessarily reflect a person's current living arrangement. This variable is applicable to persons aged 15 years or older.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark-box responses on the form, so the risk of processing error is minimal. In a small proportion of cases (less than 0.5%), respondents provided more than one response to the question. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra responses were rejected. An image of this question is provided below.

As Registered Marital Status is a key demographic variable, if there is no response to the question, a response is imputed (or derived to Not Applicable when age is less than 15 years). The variable Imputation Flag for Registered Marital Status indicates if a person's Registered Marital Status was imputed in the Census.

Imputation Flag for Registered Marital Status variable categories are shown below.

1 Marital status not imputed
2 Marital status imputed imputed
@ Not applicable

More information about imputation can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Variable history

A question on Marital Status has been asked in every Census since 1911. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Using the Imputation Flag for Registered Marital Status, the non-response rate for this variable in 2016 was 6.8% (5.2% in 2011). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

The Registered Marital Status variable provides data about a person's own current registered marital status, regardless of their reported relationship to another person in their household. The majority of imputed registered marital status are attributed to persons in occupied dwellings on Census Night that did not return a form. A smaller proportion were due to persons who returned a partially completed form without responding to the marital status question.

It should be noted that because of the current laws at the time of Census Night (9th of August, 2016), when referencing Registered Marital Status (MSTP) only opposite-sex couples were classified as "Married", regardless of what was reported on the form. Users interested in analysing 2016 Census data for same-sex couples who listed their relationship status as "Married" can find further information through the variable Relationship as Reported for Couples (RLCP).

Further Information:

A definition of Registered Marital Status is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
A definition of Imputation Flag for Marital Status is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 6 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

MTWP Method of Travel to Work

Method of Travel to Work (MTWP)

This variable records the method(s) a person used to get to work on Census Day, Tuesday August 9, 2016. It is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older who list their employment status as 'employed'.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the Census form. Respondents were able to select more than one response, though the majority of persons reported only a single mode of travel to work. An image of this question is provided below.

In some cases, where a respondent has marked a response, then crossed it out and marked another response, the automatic capture of the mark box is not able to distinguish between a valid mark and a crossed out mark. Since more than one response is allowed for this question, in any cases where more than one method was marked and a paper Census Form was used, responses were confirmed clerically to ensure that one or more of the marks wasn't crossed out by the respondent.

Respondents were asked to provide responses using mark-boxes and if they used more than one method of transport, then they could mark all methods used. Up to three methods were recorded in the Processing system. In pre-processed data, 0.6% respondents provided more than three responses. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra responses were rejected.

In cases where the combination of responses contained 'Did not go to work', 'Worked at home' or 'Walked only' then these unique responses override any others. If more than one of these unique responses is in the same combination, then a single response is selected in the order they appear above.

Variable history

The question relating to Method of Travel to Work was first asked in the 1976 Census. Similar questions have been asked in every census since then. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Unlike most Census variables, the non-response rate for Method of Travel to Work is not affected by persons who did not return a Census form because this variable is only applicable to persons with a labour force status of 'employed'. Persons who do not respond or have a labour force status of 'not stated' are not applicable to Method of Travel to Work.

The non-response rate for this variable was 1.0% (1.5% in 2011).

Data usage notes

When used in conjunction with Place of Work data, users should be aware that Place of Work refers to the main job last week, while Method of Travel to Work refers to Census day. This may explain why, for a small proportion of records, Method of Travel to Work data may appear inconsistent with Place of Work or Place of Usual Residence information.

This data is used in conjunction with place of usual residence and workplace address to construct 'journey to work' data for transport planning.

Further information

A definition of Method of Travel to Work is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information related to Method of Travel to Work, see data quality statements for Place of Work and Place of Usual Residence.

Household form question image

Question 45 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

45 **How did the person get to work on Tuesday, 9 August 2016?**	Train
• If the person used more than one method of travel to work, mark all methods used.	Bus
	Ferry
• Remember to mark the box like this: ▬	Tram (including light rail)
	Taxi
	Car – as driver
	Car – as passenger
	Truck
	Motorbike or motor scooter
	Bicycle
	Walked only
	Worked at home
	Other
	Did not go to work

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

OCCP Occupation

Occupation (OCCP)

This variable describes the occupation or main job held by employed people in the week prior to Census night. This variable is applicable to all employed persons aged 15 years or older.

How this variable is created

Occupation is a person variable and is mainly coded based on the write-in responses to the following questions on the Census form: occupation title and main tasks performed. Images of these questions are provided below.

Responses to the following questions on the Census form may also be used to assist quality occupation coding outcomes:

- The employer's business name
- The employer's industry
- The main goods or services produced

Occupation is coded using the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), 2013, Version 1.2, which builds on a review conducted in 2009 (ANZSCO First Edition, Revision 1).

ANZSCO Version 1.2 implements changes to the occupation (6-digit) level to add newly emerging occupations; delete or merge declining occupations; change titles of occupations and amend alternative titles or specialisation within an occupation. A small set of changes at the next highest level of the classification (the unit group) were made but were limited to changes in unit group titles, relevant lead statements and lists of tasks. More information about changes are available in the ANZSCO Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, 2013, Version 1.2.

Occupation coding is reliant on a variety of processes. All text response fields that contribute to occupation coding are first auto-repaired before being sent through an auto-coding process. The auto-repairing resulted in approximately 57.0% of all Occupation responses being captured automatically and auto-coding resulted in a further 28.7% being coded. The remaining responses (14.3%) that did not successfully achieve a code were examined by ABS clerical staff and independently assessed for an ANZSCO code.

Where insufficient information is provided in a response for assigning an ANZSIC code. an 'Inadequately described' code is allocated during processing. In 2016, 1.0% of data for Occupation were coded to 'Inadequately described'.

Targeted Supplementary Questions (TSQs)

For the online 2016 Census forms, the coding approach was different to paper forms for occupation responses. Targeted Supplementary Questions (TSQs) were introduced in the 2016 online forms to clarify responses for Occupation topics and facilitate more accurate coding at the lower levels of the classifications. TSQ is sequenced into the questionnaire when the respondent uses a 'trigger word' to describe their occupation title. This triggers extra questions with predefined radio button response options to collect more details about the respondent's occupation in addition to the response they initially provided.

For example, if the word 'nurse' was entered as the occupation, this alone is insufficient information to assign a detailed occupation code. This triggered extra questions about what type of nurse the respondent is, i.e. enrolled or division 2 nurse, nurse practitioner, midwife, nurse manager, registered nurse and midwife, registered nurse or other (please specify).

The list of 'trigger words' was created by looking at common responses in the 'not further defined' coding categories of the classifications in the 2011 Census data. These are text responses that could not be coded to a more detailed category in the classifications (for example, the Occupation category 'Nursing and midwifery, not further defined').

36a. In the main job held last week, what *type* of nurse was <person>?
○ Enrolled or division 2 nurse
○ Nurse practitioner
○ Midwife
○ Nurse manager
○ Registered nurse and midwife
○ Registered nurse
○ Other (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab and pages 27-33 include the Occupation targeted supplementary questions.

Variable history

Questions relating to Occupation were first asked in the 1911 Census. Prior to the 1986 Census, a single question was asked about title of occupation. In 1986 a second question on main tasks or duties that a person usually performed in his or her job was included to improve the quality of coding. The questions have remained the same for subsequent Censuses with some revision of the examples and instructions only.

Apart from the introduction of targeted supplementary questions mentioned in the above section, minor changes have been made to the dot point instructions for the

occupation question in order to update the example responses and also include more specific examples.

Non-response rate

Unlike most Census variables, the non-response rate for Occupation is not affected by persons who did not return a Census form because this variable is only applicable to persons with a Labour Force Status as 'employed'. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 0.7% (0.8% in 2011).

Data usage notes

The introduction of targeted supplementary questions in the online Census has reduced 'not further defined' categories across some Occupations and classified responses into more detailed Occupation categories.

For example, counts of 'Midwifery and Nursing Professionals, not further defined', has decreased, while other nursing categories (Midwives, Nurse Educators and Researchers, Nurse Managers and Registered Nurses) have increased in 2016. Similarly, 'Engineering Professionals' has decreased significantly since 2011 and more detailed Occupation categories have increased (except for 'Mining Engineers' which is in line with real world changes).

Further information

A definition of Occupation is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Questions 38 and 39 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

POWP Place of Work

Place of Work (POWP) / Imputation flag for Place of Work (IFPOWP)

This variable records the geographic area in which a person worked in the week before Census night. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older who listed their employment status as 'employed'.

How this variable is created

Place of Work is a person variable which is determined from written responses to the 'Business name' and 'Workplace address' questions. Images of these questions are provided below.

The majority of responses for Place of Work were coded automatically (69%). The remaining 31% of responses went through a 'bulk coding' process where groupings of the same business/property were assigned a Place of Work code. 10.6% of all responses were coded this way, and the other 20.4% of responses were coded manually using a workplace index.

Responses are coded to units of geography known as Destination Zones (DZNs). Destination Zone boundaries for 2016 have been designed by the ABS following consultation with each State and Territory Transport Authority (STAs), and cover all of Australia. Destination Zones are aggregates of whole Mesh Blocks (though data is not coded to the Mesh Block level), and aggregate to Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2s). Due to the hierarchical nature of the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS), place of work data is also available at the Statistical Area Level 3 (SA3), Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4), State/Territory and Greater Capital City Statistical Area levels. Although DZNs do not fit neatly into Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries, a DZN to LGA correspondence was created to allow data to also be released at LGA level. This data is available on request.

In 2011, the place of work geography included extra categories for records that, due to the quality of the response, could not be successfully coded to a DZN (code 9999) or SA2 level ('Capital City' and 'State undefined'). In 2016, these records (and those where no response was given) were subject to a new imputation process to ensure all records received a valid DZN code.

The variable Imputation Flag for Place of Work (IFPOWP) has been introduced to identify the geographic level at which imputation was required. Overall, 90% of place of work data did not require any imputation. Coding process improvements in 2016 ensured a suitable donor pool was available for imputation, reflected in the following figures:

- The number of records that were coded to an SA2 but not to DZN was 3.1% (down from 3.6% in 2011).
- The number of records coded to a Capital City but not to SA2/DZN was 0.8% (down from 1.4% in 2011).
- The number of records coded to a State/Territory but not to Capital City/SA2/DZN was 1.0% (down from 4.4% in 2011).
- Records where no response was provided for workplace address was 5.1% (up from 2.5% in 2011).

Imputation Flag for Place of Work variable categories are shown below.

1 Workplace address not imputed
2 Workplace address imputed - SA2 stated
3 Workplace address imputed - Capital city stated
4 Workplace address imputed - State/territory stated
5 Workplace address imputed - Not stated
@ Not applicable
V Overseas visitor

More information about imputation can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Variable history

This question was first asked in the 1971 Census. Similar questions have been asked in every Census since then. The Place of Work variable was used for the first time in the 2006 Census and replaced the Journey to Work variable which was used prior to that.

Data is available for Destination Zone in TableBuilder Pro. Prior to 2011, DZN data was only available via customised request. Destination Zone boundaries were updated for 2016 and the new Imputation Flag for Place of Work variable was introduced.

Place of Work is a hierarchical classification, ranging from the broadest geographic level (Australia), to the finest level (Destination Zone). The categories in this variable have changed to reflect the updated Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) used for the 2016 Census. Data is also available for Local Government Areas (LGAs) to assist with time series comparison.

Non-response rate

Unlike some other Census variables, the non-response rate is not affected by persons imputed into dwellings that did not return a Census Form, as Place of Work is only applicable for persons with a labour force status of 'employed'. Where a respondent provided a response to the 'Business name' question but not the 'Workplace address' question, this was not considered to be 'non-response'.

Using the Imputation Flag for Place of Work, the non-response rate for this variable was 5.1% in 2016 (2.5% in 2011). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Comparability of Destination Zones over time

Destination Zones are not necessarily comparable across Censuses, due to significant changes to both the boundary and code structure.

While data for LGAs is available for both 2016 and 2011, there may have been changes to LGA boundaries between 2016 and 2011 which need to be taken into account. More information is available in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 3 - Non ABS Structures, July 2016.

In 2016, coding indexes were supplied by the ABS based on indexes used for other geographic topics in the Census, supplemented with other information from the State Transport Authority (such as lists of businesses and properties). This was the same approach taken as in 2011, but differed from previous Censuses, where the coding indexes were wholly supplied by the State Transport Authority.

Journey to Work information

Data for Place of Work, Place of Usual Residence and Method of Travel to Work can be cross-classified to examine movements of people to and from work, to analyse transport patterns and assist in the planning for transport systems. However, the Place of Work data question refers to a person's workplace address 'last' week; Place of Usual Residence refers to where a person usually lives (which may or may not be where they were counted on Census night); and Method of Travel to Work asks where the person travelled to work on the day of the Census. This difference of timeframes can produce outliers in the data due to a variety of legitimate reasons.

Scenario	Example 1 A person spent the previous night in Brisbane with a friend and walked to work in Brisbane City. She then caught a train to her parent's place on the Gold Coast (which she also regarded as her usual place of residence) that evening where she was enumerated.	Example 2 A person mainly worked in Alice Springs in the week prior to the Census. However the person moved to Sydney in the intervening week and took a ferry to their new place of employment
Area of Enumeration	Gold Coast	Manly
Place of Usual Residence	Gold Coast	Manly
Place of Work	Brisbane City	Alice Springs
Method of Transport to Work	Walked Only	Ferry

Further information

A definition of Place of Work is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
A definition of Imputation Flag for Place of Work is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Place of Work, see data quality statements for Method of Travel to Work and Place of Usual Residence, which can be used to in conjunction with the Place of Work variable to provide Journey to Work data.

Household form question image

Question 40 and 41 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

PUR1P Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago

Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago (PUR1P)

This variable records the geographic area in which a person usually lived one year ago (i.e. at August 9, 2015). This variable is applicable for all usual residents of Australia, except for persons aged less than one year.

How this variable is created

Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago is coded to Statistical Area 2 (SA2) level based on the response to the question of where the person lived one year ago. An image of this question is provided below. If Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago cannot be coded to the SA2 level, it is assigned to a 'capital city undefined' category, or a 'state undefined' category. The proportion of records coded to these categories was 0.1% in 2016 compared with 0.2% in 2011.

For the 76.4% of persons whose place of usual residence one year ago was the same as their place of usual residence on Census night, their Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago is automatically derived from Place of Usual Residence. A further 1.7% of persons usually lived overseas one year ago, and their Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago is therefore coded as such. For the 13.6% of persons who lived elsewhere in Australia one year ago, the address details provided on the form were coded using automatic or clerical processes.

Variable history

This question relating to Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago was first asked in the 1976 Census and has been asked at every census since then. Geographic classifications have been changed for the 2016 Census so that they match the updated Australian Statistical Geography Standard. The date listed for one year ago was also updated.

Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago is a hierarchical classification, ranging from the broadest geographical level (Australia) at the top of the hierarchy, to the finest level (SA2). The categories in this variable have changed to reflect the updated Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) used for the 2016 Census. Provision is also made for persons who indicated that they had no usual place of residence one year ago.

Non-response rate

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The non-response rate for this variable was 8.6% in 2016 (5.3% in 2011).

Further information

A definition of Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For related information on Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago, see data quality statements for Place of Usual Residence, Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago and Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator.

Household form question image

Question 9 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

PUR5P Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago

Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago (PUR5P)

This variable records the geographic area in which a person usually lived five years ago (i.e. at August 9, 2011). This variable is applicable for all usual residents of Australia aged 5 years and over.

How this variable is created

The table below describes how the Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago is created and the proportion this represents in 2016, depending on the the response to the question on the form of where the person usually lived five years ago. An image of this question is provided below.

Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago is coded to Statistical Area 2 (SA2) level based on the response to the question of where the person lived five years ago. An image of this question is provided below. If Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago cannot be coded to the SA2 level, it is assigned to a 'capital city undefined' category, or a 'state undefined' category. The proportion of records coded to these categories was 0.4% in 2016 compared with 0.7% in 2011.

For the 52.4% of persons whose place of usual residence five year ago was the same as their place of usual residence on Census night, their Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago is automatically derived from Place of Usual Residence. A further 6.3% of persons usually lived overseas five years ago, and their Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago is therefore coded as such. For the 33.9% of persons who lived elsewhere in Australia five years ago, the address details provided on the form were coded using automatic or clerical processes.

Variable history

This question relating to Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago was first asked in the 1971 Census and has been asked at every census since then. Geographic classifications have been changed for the 2016 Census so that they match the updated Australian Statistical Geography Standard. The date listed for five years ago has also been updated.

Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago is a hierarchical classification, ranging from the broadest geographical level (Australia) at the top of the hierarchy, to the finest level (SA2). The categories in this variable have changed to reflect the updated Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) used for the 2016 Census. Provision is also made for persons who indicated that they had no usual place of residence one year ago.

Non-response rate

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response tables for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The non-response rate for this variable was 8.0% in 2016 (6.5% in 2011).

Further information

A definition of Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago is available from the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For related information on Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago, see data quality statements for Place of Usual Residence, Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago and Usual Address Indicator Five Years Ago Indicator.

Household form question image

Question 10 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

PURP Place of Usual Residence

Place of Usual Residence (PURP, IFPURP)

Place of Usual Residence records the geographic area where a person usually lives. This variable is applicable to all persons excluding Overseas Visitors.

How this variable is created

For the 93.9% of persons who were at home on Census night, Place of Usual Residence is automatically derived from their Place of Enumeration. A further 1.3% of persons usually lived overseas, and their Place of Usual Residence is therefore coded as such. For the 4.8% of persons who lived elsewhere in Australia, the address details provided on the form were coded to a Mesh Block (MB) using automatic or clerical processes. An image of this question is provided below.

When an incomplete address of usual residence is given, the Place of Usual residence is imputed at different geographic levels according to the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

The variable Imputation Flag for Place of Usual Residence (IFPURP) indicates if a person's place of usual residence was imputed in the Census, and to what level. There are four categories:

1 Not imputed - State/Territory, SA2 and SA1 stated
2 SA1 imputed - State/Territory and SA2 stated
3 SA2 and SA1 imputed - State/Territory and/or Capital City provided
4 State/Territory, SA2 and SA1 imputed

More information about imputation can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Variable history

Prior to the 1961 Census, questions did not differentiate between Place of Enumeration and Place of Usual Residence. A question relating to Place of Usual Residence was first asked in the 1971 Census and has been asked at every census since then.

Place of Usual Residence is a hierarchical classification, ranging from the broadest geographic level (Australia), to the finest level (Statistical Area Level 1). The categories in this variable have changed to reflect the updated Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) used for the 2016 Census. Provision is also made for persons who indicate that they have no usual place of residence.

Non-response rate

The majority of cases where Place of Usual residence was imputed are attributable to persons that either did not return a form or returned a form but did not provide any usual address information. A smaller proportion provided address information that was not able to be coded to an Statistical Area Level 1, but was able to be coded to a higher geographic level. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Using the Imputation Flag for Place of Usual Residence, the non-response rate for this variable at the Statistical Area Level 2 (SA2) geographic level was 5.3% (3.8% in 2011), and the non-response rate at the Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1) geographic level was 5.4% (3.9% in 2011).

Data usage notes

The technical definition of usual residence refers to the address at which a person lives or intends to live for six months or more. Persons visiting Australia from another country for less than one year are considered overseas visitors. However, the data are self-reported and in some cases, the address that is reported may be that which respondents consider their 'usual address' rather than necessary meeting the technical definition.

Prior to 2016, usual address information for persons staying in a non-private dwelling (hotel, hospitals) on Census night was recorded on a Summary form by a Census Field Officer. In 2016, under the new enumeration method, usual address information was no longer collected during the non-private dwelling enumeration process. If a form was not returned by a respondent in a non-private dwelling, then usual address information was imputed during processing.

Further information

A definition of Place of Usual Residence is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on variables related to Place of Usual Residence, see UAICP (Usual Address Indicator Census Night).
For more information on the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) and it's recent updates, please refer to the ABS Geography page.

Household form question image

Question 8 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

QALFP Non-School Qualification Field of Study

Non-School Qualification: Field of Study (QALFP)

This variable describes the field of study of a person's highest completed non-school qualification (i.e. educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education). This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or over who stated a completed qualification.

How this variable is created

Non-School Qualification: Field of Study is mainly coded based on written responses for qualification level and qualification field questions. Highest year of primary or secondary school completed, qualification indicator (question asking whether person has completed any educational qualification) and whether the qualification was completed before 1998 may also be used. Images of these questions are provided below.

The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0), released in 2001, was used to code data for Non-School Qualification: Field of Study. The standard replaced the ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ). For the 2001 Census, question wording, instructions and examples were modified to assist in coding using the ASCED, and to accommodate the Australian Qualifications Framework, which was introduced in 1998. The ASCED classifications have not been reviewed since their introduction.

Qualification coding is reliant on a variety of processes. All text response fields that contribute to qualification coding are first auto-repaired before being sent through an auto-coding process. The remaining records that did not successfully achieve a code in auto-coding were examined by clerical staff and independently assessed for an ASCED code. When completing their Census Form, some people provide responses which cannot be coded. In these instances, an 'Inadequately described' code is allocated during processing. For 2016 these responses comprised 1.5% of the data (compared to from 1.0% in 2011).

In the 2006 Census, the year completed question was reworded to ask if the qualification was obtained before 1998 or from 1998 onward, with 1998 being the year the AQF was introduced. The distinction between certificates awarded pre-1998 and from 1998 onward is also used to assist in coding some certificates to finer levels of the ASCED classification.

Variable history

This question was first asked in the 1971 Census, and has been asked in every census since then. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The non-response rate (records coded to the supplementary class 'not stated') for this variable was 15.1% in 2016 (16.7% in 2011). A large component of non-response for Non-School Qualification: Field of Study is due to people answering neither the Qualification Indicator question (question 28 on the Census Household Form) nor the Non-School Qualification: Field of Study questions. This includes people who may not have seen the qualifications questions as relevant to themselves, and thus chose not to respond, and those people who were imputed into occupied dwellings from which no form had been returned. As such, it may not be appropriate to consider these groups of non-respondents when calculating non-response for the directly applicable population.

When Non-School Qualification: Field of Study is analysed in conjunction with a 'Yes' response to the Qualifications Indicator question, the non-response rate for this variable for 2016 is 2.0% (see table below). Using this same method, the non-response rate for 2011 was 2.2%.

Table 1 Non response derivation for Non-School Qualification: Field of Study for persons who indicated that they had completed a qualification[a]

Qualification field (QALFP)	Number of people	%
Stated	9,566,704	**98.0**
Not stated	199,574	**2.0**
Total	9,766,278	**100**

[a] Includes only people who had stated 'Yes' responses to Qualifications Indicator question (Question 28 on the Census paper form), indicating that they had completed an education qualification.

Data usage notes

When using this variable, the directly applicable population (i.e. those who answered 'Yes' to the Qualifications Indicator question) is not identifiable in the output data set. Therefore this variable cannot be used as a count of people who hold a qualification.

Further information

A definition Non-School Qualification: Field of Study is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary (cat. no. 2901.0).
For more information related to Non-School Qualification: Field of Study, see data quality statement for Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP).

Household form question image

Data for this variable is mainly derived from questions 29 and 30 on the Census Household Paper Form**.**

Questions 28, 29 and 30 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab

QALLP Non-School Qualification Level of Education

Non-School Qualification: Level of Education (QALLP)

This variable describes the level of a person's highest completed non-school qualification. Non-school qualifications are educational attainments other than those of a pre-primary, primary or secondary education level. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or over who stated a completed qualification.

How this variable is created

Non-School Qualification: Level of Education is mainly coded based on written responses for qualification level and qualification field questions. Highest year of primary or secondary school completed, qualification indicator (question asking whether a person has completed any educational qualification) and whether the qualification was completed before 1998 may also be used. Images of these questions are provided below.

The Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0), released in 2001, was used to code data for QALLP. The standard replaced the ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ). For the 2001 Census, question wording, instructions and examples were modified to assist in coding using the ASCED, and to accommodate the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF), which was introduced in 1998. The ASCED classifications have not been reviewed since their introduction.

Qualification coding is reliant on a variety of processes. All text response fields that contribute to qualification coding are first auto-repaired before being sent through an auto-coding process. The remaining records that did not successfully achieve a code in auto-coding were examined by clerical staff and independently assessed for an ASCED code. When completing their Census Form, some people provide responses which cannot be coded. In these instances, an 'Inadequately Described' code is allocated during processing. For 2016 these comprised 1.5% of the data (compared to 1.0% in 2011).

In the 2006 Census, the year completed question was reworded to ask if the qualification was obtained before 1998 or from 1998 onward, with 1998 being the year the AQF was introduced. The distinction between certificates awarded pre-1998 and from 1998 is also used to assist in coding some certificates to finer levels of the ASCED classification.

Variable history

A question relating to level of education was first asked in the 1911 Census and has been asked in every census since then. In many censuses, school and non-school qualification were not necessarily separate questions. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response tables for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The non-response rate (records coded to the supplementary class 'not stated') for this variable was 16.0% in 2016 (17.1% in 2011). A large component of non-response for Non-School Qualification: Level of Education is due to people answering neither the Qualification Indicator question (question 28 on the Census Household paper form) nor the Non-School Qualification: Level of Education questions. This includes people who may not have seen the qualifications questions as relevant to themselves, and thus chose not to respond, and those people who were imputed into occupied dwellings from which no form had been returned. As such, it may not be appropriate to consider these groups of non-respondents when calculating non-response for the directly applicable population.

When Non-response derivation for Non-School Qualification: Level of Education is analysed in conjunction with a 'Yes' response to the Qualifications Indicator question, the non-response rate for this variable for 2016 is 2.8% (see Table 1 below). Using this same method, the non-response rate for 2011 was 2.6%.

Table 1 Non-response derivation for Non-School Qualification: Level of Education for persons who indicated that they had completed a qualification[a]

Qualification level of education (QALLP)	Number of people	%
Stated	9,494,877	97.2%
Not stated	271,401	2.8%
Total	9,766,278	100.0%

[a] Includes only people who had stated 'Yes' responses to Qualifications Indicator question (Question 28 on the Census paper form), indicating that they had completed an education qualification.

Data usage notes

When using this variable, the directly applicable population (i.e. those who answered 'Yes' to the Qualifications Indicator question) is not identifiable in the output data set. Therefore this variable cannot be used as a count of people who hold a qualification.

Further information

A definition of Non-School Qualification: Level of Education is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Non-School Qualification: Level of Education, see data quality statements for Level of Highest Educational Attainment and Non-School Qualification: Field of Study.

Household form question image

Data for this variable is mainly derived from questions 29 and 30 on the Census Household Paper Form

Questions 28, 29 and 30 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

RELP Religious Affiliation

Religious Affiliation (RELP)

The variable records a person's religious affiliation and is applicable to all persons. Answering this Census question is optional.

How this variable is created

Religious affiliations are coded to the Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) 2016.

Respondents could use one of the mark boxes to indicate their religion or write the name of their religion in the text field. The majority of responses for Religious Affiliation were captured automatically (90.1%) from a mark box response. Written responses were coded using a combination of automatic reading and coding processes (9.2%). The remaining responses required manual coding processes when they could not be coded or derived automatically (0.7%).

If a religion is not listed in the classification, it is coded to 'Inadequately described'. In 2016, 0.5% of data for Religious Affiliation were coded to 'Inadequately described'.

In 1.5% of pre-processed data, people had either marked more than one religion or had marked a religion and also given a text response. In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra response was rejected.

A minor review of the classification in 2016 resulted in some changes to the classification structure and a net increase in the number of religions (4 digit groups) from 137 to 151, a decrease in 3 digit level groups from 30 to 28 and an increase in 2 digit groups from 3 to 7. The areas of greatest change are the Pentecostal narrow group (2 digit group 24), the Other Protestant narrow group (2 digit group 28) and Broad group 7, previously named No Religion and now named Secular Beliefs and Other Spiritual Beliefs and No Religious Affiliation.

Variable history

A question on religion has been included in all Australian Censuses since 1911, but answering this question has always been optional. The option not to answer this question is provided for in legislation.

For 2016 a change was made to the question format, moving 'No Religion' to be the first response category. This change was made following the 2016 Census topic review process, where many submissions recommended changes to the Religious affiliation question due to perceived bias in the question format and consequent potential underestimates of the number of people who stated they had 'No Religion'. The change was also made in light of the growing trend for people to report No Religion in previous Censuses. After user consultation and testing, the ABS decided to move the 'No Religion' response category to be the first response category in the question, so it will be more consistent with other questions and the order of their response categories. This approach is consistent with that of a number of other countries.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 9.1% (8.6% in 2011). As this question is optional, it generally records a higher non-response rate when compared with most Census variables.

Further information

A definition of Religious Affiliation is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
More information about the classification is available in Australian Standard Classification of Religious Groups (ASCRG) 2016.

Household form question image

Question 19 as it appeared on the **2016** Census Household Paper Form:

Question 19 as it appeared on the **2011** Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

RLCP Relationship as Reported for Couples

Relationship as Reported for Couples (RLCP)

This variable records the partner relationship as it is reported for both opposite-sex and same-sex couples. It shows the number of people who reported their relationship as being 'husband or wife', or 'de facto partners'. This variable is applicable to all persons in occupied private dwellings who are part of a couple family.

How this variable is created

Data on the relationships people have with others in the same dwelling, including husband/wife or de facto partner, is derived from the relationship in household question on the Census Household Form. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

This variable was new for 2011 and is unchanged in 2016.

The variable has similar categories to Relationship in Household except that it records husband/wife or de-facto partnership as they are reported for both opposite-sex and same-sex couples. Both variables, Relationship in Household and Relationship as Reported for Couples, provide data about how an individual perceives and reports their relationship to someone else in that household.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Relationship as Reported for Couples does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

This variable shows the number of people who reported their relationship as 'Husband or wife' (regardless of whether they are a same-sex or opposite-sex couple). It should be noted that relationships are only recorded where the couple have been counted in an occupied private dwelling.

Further information

A definition for Relationship as Reported for Couples is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary with additional information available in the Glossary.
For information on the standard Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household (RLHP).

Household form question image

Question 5 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

RLGP Relationship in Household (including grandchildren)

Relationship in Household (including grandchildren) (RLGP)

This variable describes the relationship of each person in a family to the family reference person or, where a person is not part of a family, that person's relationship to the household reference person. It is applicable to all persons counted in an occupied private dwelling.

How this variable is created

Data on the relationships people have with others in the same dwelling is mainly derived from question 5 on the Census Household Form, which asks for each person's relationship to Person 1 on the form. An image of this question is provided below. Relationship in Household (including grandchildren) (RLGP) differs from Relationship in Household (RLHP) in that it recognises grandchildren as a child type, and that a grandparent-grandchild relationship is a parent-child relationship rather than an 'other family type' relationship.

Variable history

Relationship in Household (including grandchildren) was first derived in 2011. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Relationship in Household (including grandchildren) does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Grandparent families are recognised where there is a grandparent-grandchild relationship present and no parent-child relationship present in a family. Where a parent is temporarily absent from the family, and their relationship reported does not confirm their relationship to their child (for example, if person 1 is not a member of their family nucleus) that parent-child relationship cannot be coded. This can result in a small number of children being reported as grandchildren when a parent is simply absent on Census night.

Users should note that grandparent-grandchild relationships are constructed for the purposes of family coding in order to create a statistical family. It may not be representative of who provides care, for example a grandparent caring for their grandchild or vice versa.

Relationship in Household (including grandchildren) and the standard Relationship in Household variable both describe the relationship of each person in the family to the family reference person. Where a person is not part of the family, these variables describe the relationship to the household reference person.

While the standard and grandparent variables are similar, there are differences in the way data is processed. The table below shows how grandparent/grandchild relationships are classified under the standard variables compared with the grandparent variables.

	Standard variables	*Grandparent variables*
Person aged 15 years or more and has relationship of grandchild	Person is classified as 'other relative'.	Person is classified as a 'type of child' with a relationship of dependent student' or 'non-dependent child'.
A sole grandparent in the family	Family is classified as 'other family'.	Family is classified as 'lone parent'.
A grandparent couple	Family is classified as 'couple family with no children and with relatives'.	Family is classified as 'couple family with children'.

Further information

A definition for Relationship in Household (including grandchildren) is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on variables related to Relationship in Household (including grandchildren), see data quality statements for Child Type (including grandchildren), Grandparent Families and Relationship in Household.

Household form question image

Question 5 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

RLHP Relationship in Household

Relationship in Household (RLHP)

This variable describes the relationship of each person in a family to the family reference person or, where a person is not a part of a family, that person's relationship to the household reference person. It is applicable to all persons present in occupied private dwellings on Census night.

How this variable is created

Data on the relationships people have with others in the same dwelling is mainly derived from question on the Census Household Form, which asks for each person's relationship to Person 1 on the form. An image of this question is provided below.

During data processing, families are identified and created based around a 'family reference person'. In 93.4% of cases Person 1 is the family reference person. For cases where a child or non-family member was listed as Person 1, a more appropriate person is selected to be the reference person.

In cases where some members of a household are away from home on Census night, members of the family nucleus (partners, parents and children) and unrelated persons who were temporarily absent on Census night are taken into account when deriving Relationship in Household. This allows for the identification of some families, and also for distinguishing between lone person and group households.

Variable history

A question on relationships within households has been asked in every census since 1911. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Relationship in Household does not have a non-response rate as there is no separate 'not stated' category in the classification.

Data usage notes

Priority is given to identifying those relationships which form a 'family nucleus', i.e. partnerships and parent/child relationships and for many households, identifying relationships to assist the coding of family or household structure for that dwelling is quite straightforward. However, across the community, a wide variety of living arrangements exists and family structures can be complex and dynamic in nature, and so the quality of family data in the Census is partly dependent on people's ability to describe these relationships within the constraints of the generalised questionnaire format required by a Census. This is particularly the case for those dwellings containing blended families or multiple generations of a family. The reporting of relationships to Person 1 can sometimes mean that closer relationships between other people in the household are sometimes lost, for example reporting 'niece' (of Person 1) instead of 'daughter of person 2'. In other cases, respondents have reported a relationship that is the reverse of what the question is intended to capture, for example, reporting 'grandparent' instead of 'grandchild'. While in many cases these errors are recognised and rectified, some are automatically accepted and can not be reviewed, precluding an assessment of this error's impact on data quality.

More complex or unusual relationships are not automatically accepted by the processing system and are presented for manual intervention. For many households, identifying relationships to assist the coding of family or household structure for that dwelling is quite straightforward. In some cases, additional information such as name, usual residence, marital status and number of children given birth to is also used during data processing to help determine these relationships. Priority is given to identifying those relationships which form a 'family nucleus', i.e. partnerships and parent/child relationships. Interpretation of, at times, very complex family structures by a large number of coding specialists results in variation of coding outcomes that is difficult to measure.

Improvements were made during processing to the coding of in-laws and step relationships to ensure that the these relationships in the household were preserved. This has lead to decreases in counts for the category 'Other related individual (nec)' in 2016. This change in treatment aligns with the Family, Household and Income Unit Variables, 2014.

For people imputed into dwellings for which no household form was received, relationship data is set to 'Other non-classifiable relationship'. Increases in counts in the category 'Other non-classifiable relationship' can be observed in the in 2016 Census. The majority of these come from non-responding persons. In such cases persons are imputed, along with selected demographic characteristics. For more information on imputation, see the Derivations and Imputations entry in the Glossary of the 2016 Census Dictionary

Further information

A definition of Relationship in Household is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For further Relationship in Household information, see the data quality statements for Child Type, Family Composition.

Household form question image

Question 5 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

RLNP Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling

Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling (RLNP)

This variable describes the residential status of each person in a non-private dwelling i.e. whether they were there as either a member of staff, as a guest, patient, inmate, or other resident etc. It is applicable to persons who were counted in a non-private dwelling on Census night on a Census Personal Form.

How this variable is created

This question is applicable to personal forms for Non-Private Dwellings. Data was captured automatically from mark box responses on the form and these responses were then grouped to form the two output categories. Respondents were asked to mark one response. However, in a small proportion of pre-processed data on the paper form, people provided more than one response (1.3%). In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra responses were rejected.

Variable history

A question on status in a non-private dwelling was first asked in the 1976 Census, and has been asked for every Census since then. For 2016 the questions on the online versions of the personal form relating to this classification were revised to improve clarity and sequencing.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 27.6% (18.3% in 2011). Non-response is generally higher for persons who were staying at a non-private dwelling on Census night than those counted in an occupied private dwelling.

Data usage notes

Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling is only applicable to persons who were in a non-private dwelling on Census night and were enumerated on a Census Personal Form (question 6 on the Census Personal Form).

Further Information

A definition of Residential Status in a Non-Private Dwelling is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Personal form question image

Question 6 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Personal Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

RPIP Family Household Reference Person Indicator

Family/Household Reference Person Indicator (RPIP)

This variable Family/Household Reference Person Indicator records the person who is used as the basis for determining the familial and non-familial relationships within a household. It is usually the person who has identified himself/herself as Person 1 on the Household form. This variable is applicable all persons in a family, group or lone person households enumerated in private dwellings that are not visitor only (or non-classifiable) households.

How this variable is created

Data on the relationships people have with others in the same dwelling is mainly derived from the relationship in household question on the Census Household Form, which asks for each person's relationship to Person 1 on the form. An image of this question is provided below.

The household reference person in a multiple family household can be identified as the family reference person in the primary family. It identifies the household member used in Census coding as the basis for identifying the relationships between usual residents of a household. Familial relationships are defined in terms of the relationship between the family reference person and all other family members. Person 1 is the 'reference person' for 93.4% of family reference persons and 98.9% of non-family reference persons. In the remaining cases, a more appropriate person on the form is chosen during clerical coding. For example, an adult is chosen rather than a child, or in the event of multiple family households additional reference persons are chosen.

Variable history

Questions on the relationships between residents of a household have been asked for every census since 1911. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Family/Household Reference Person Indicator does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

This variable is not an indication that a person is 'head of the household'.

Further Information

More information on Family/Household Reference Person Indicator is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.

Household form question image

Question 5 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

SEXP Sex

Sex (SEXP, IFSEXP)

This variable records each person's sex as either male or female. It is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

Responses to the question 'Is the person male or female?' were captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. Images of this question is provided below.

If a form was received from a dwelling, but no response was recorded to the question, sex was imputed. Previously (including 2011 Census), sex was imputed using other

information on the form, such as name, relationship or number of children. If sex could not be derived using this information, it was allocated at random. In 2016, if sex was missing on partially completed forms, it was imputed by checking if the person's legal spouse was recorded in the dwelling and whether they recorded their sex. If they did, then the opposite sex was assigned. Manual coding processes then allowed coders to assign sex based on name or other related information. Finally, for remaining records, sex was imputed and was allocated at random.

For private dwellings where a form was not returned and the number of males and females is unknown, two imputation processes are performed. Initially, these records have their number of males and females imputed using hotdecking. Then a second imputation (also using hotdecking) is run to impute the key demographic variables (age, marital status and usual address) for the newly created person records. Hot decking uses 'donor' records using selected criteria to assign sex.

If a person in a non-private dwelling did not return a form, their demographic characteristics are copied from another person in a similar non-private dwelling using Type of Non-Private Dwelling.

The variable Imputation Flag for Sex (IFSEXP) is new for 2016 and indicates if a person's sex was imputed in the Census. There are two categories:

01 Sex not imputed
02 Sex imputed

More information on imputations is available in the Glossary of the Census Dictionary and in Turning your information into Census data.

Variable history

A question on Sex has been asked at every Census since 1911.

In 2016, respondents had the option to respond as 'other sex'. If a person wanted to identify as other than male or female, they were instructed to call the Census Inquiry Service for information on how to identify on the Census forms. To respond online, they were given specific login details to access an alternate form which allowed them to select 'other' and could enter in information in a 'please specify' text box if they wished to provide more information. To respond on paper form, they were instructed to write on the right hand side of the response area and these were checked manually to record a respondent's 'other sex' category.

Non-response rate

A non-response rate is not available for Sex. As Sex is a key demographic variable it is imputed using other information on the form. The variable Imputation Flag for Sex (IFSEXP) indicates if a person's sex was imputed in the Census. Using the new Imputation Flag for Sex, the non-response rate for this variable was 5.7%. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Other sex

An analytical article will be released in October that details the outcome of providing 'other' sex response. All paper form responses that were potentially indicative of an 'other sex' response were manually checked, as it is possible for respondents making written comments in the form to be incorrectly identified as having selected 'other sex'.

Imputation

In 2011, for some non-responding private dwellings Census Field Officers were able to obtain an estimate of the numbers of males and females staying in the dwelling and this was used as credible information to draw upon during the imputation process. This was not available in 2016 under the new collection method.

Further information

More information on Sex is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary (cat. no. 2901.0).
Reflecting Australia: Stories from the Census, 2016 will include a brief overview on Australia for results on 'other sex', with more comprehensive articles planned for later release in 2017.
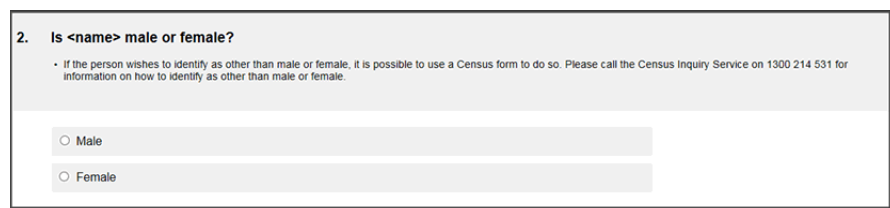
Household form question image

Question 3 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form

Question 2 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Online Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

SIEMP Status in Employment

Status in Employment (SIEMP)

This variable classifies a person's type of employment status for their main job in the week prior to Census night. This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older who list their employment status as 'employed'.

How this variable is created

Status in Employment data is derived from responses to a number of questions on the form. Data is captured automatically from mark box responses. Images of these questions are provided below.

Variable history

Status in Employment is a new data item for 2016 and replaces Employment Type, which was discontinued for the 2016 Census. Status in Employment is a more comprehensive data item compared to Employment Type as there is more detailed information as to whether the incorporated/unincorporated enterprise is with/without employees, as shown in the table below.

Categories for 2016 Status in Employment *(new for 2016)*	Categories for 2011 Employment type *(discontinued and replaced by Status in Employment variable in 2016)*
1 Employee	1 Employee not owning business
2 Owner manager of incorporated enterprise with employees	2 Owner managers of incorporated enterprises
3 Owner manager of incorporated enterprise without employees	3 Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises

4 Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise with employees	4 Contributing family workers
5 Owner manager of unincorporated enterprise without employees	& Not stated
6 Contributing family worker	
& Not stated	

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Status of Employment does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Further information

A definition of Status in Employment is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information related to Status in Employment, see the data quality statement for Labour Force Status.

Household form question image

Data for this variable is derived from the following questions on the Census Household Form:

- Question 34, which is used to determine if they had a job
- Question 35 which is used to determine if the job is for an employer or their own business
- Questions 36, and 37, for those who work in own business and these questions are used to determine nature of business and the number of employees.

Question's 34,35, 36 and 37 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

SLPP Sex of Lone Parent

Sex of Lone Parent (SLPP)

This variable indicates the sex (i.e. either male or female) of lone parents present in the household on Census night. It is applicable to people who have identified themselves as a lone parent who was enumerated in a private dwelling on Census night.

How this variable is created

Sex of Lone Parent is a person variable that is created based on responses to the Sex and Relationship in Household questions on the Census Household Form. In a small proportion of cases, responses to Persons Temporarily Absent questions are also used. Images of these questions are provided below.

Responses to the question 'Is the person male or female?' were captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. If a form was received but there was no response to the question, Sex was imputed. More information is available in the data quality statement for Sex.

Data on the relationships people have with others in the same dwelling is mainly derived from the Relationship in Household question, which asks for each person's relationship to Person 1 on the form.

Variable history

Sex of Lone Parent was new for 2011 and has not changed since then. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Sex of Lone Parent does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Further information

A definition of Sex of Lone Parent is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Sex of Lone Parent, see data quality statements for Relationship in Household and Sex.

Household form question image

Data for this variable are mainly derived from questions 3 and 5 on the Census Household Form:

Questions 3, 5 and 53 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

3 Is the person male or female?
- Mark one box for each person, like this: ▬

☐ Male
☐ Female

5 What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

No answer required for Person 1

☐ Husband or wife of Person 1
☐ De facto partner of Person 1
☐ Child of Person 1
☐ Stepchild of Person 1
☐ Brother or sister of Person 1
☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1

Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name	First or given name	First or given name
	Surname or family name	Surname or family name	Surname or family name

Is the person male or female?
- Mark one box for each person away.

☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female

What is the person's date of birth or age?
- If date of birth not known, please give age. Example:

Day Month Year
`1 3` `0 1` `1 9 6 8`
OR
`4 8` Years

Day Month Year	Day Month Year	Day Month Year
OR Age ___ Years	OR Age ___ Years	OR Age ___ Years

Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
- For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.

☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander

Is the person a full-time student?

☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes

What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.

☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

Question 2 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Online Form:

Note the instructions for persons who whish to identify as other than male or female.

2. Is <name> male or female?
- If the person wishes to identify as other than male or female, it is possible to use a Census form to do so. Please call the Census Inquiry Service on 1300 214 531 for information on how to identify as other than male or female.

○ Male
○ Female

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

STUP Full-Time Part-Time Student Status

Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status (STUP)

This variable describes the full-time or part-time status of students and is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

The information is collected from mark box responses on the form and the risk of processing error is very small. For Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status, respondents are asked to only mark one response. In 0.8% of pre-processed data , respondents provided more than one response. In these cases responses are accepted in the order they appear on the form and the extra responses are rejected.

Variable history

A question on current type of attendance at school or other educational institution has been asked since 1976. The categories for Full/Part Time Student Status were revised for 2011. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 6.8% (6.2% in 2011). The non-response rates for this variable include 0.2% of respondents (0.2% in 2011) who did not indicate whether they were students at the Full/Part Time Student Status question (question 24 on the Census Household Form) but went on to state the type of educational institution attended at the next question, Type of of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP).

Further information
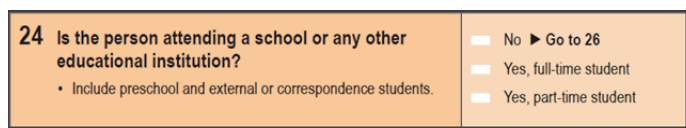
A definition of Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status, see data quality statement for Type of Educational Institution Attending.
Additional sources of information regarding student status can be found in other ABS publications and associated collections. Refer to the Education home page on the ABS website.

Household form question image

Question 24 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

TISP Number of Children Ever Born

Number of Children Ever Born (TISP, TISRP)

This variable counts the number of children ever born to each female aged 15 years and over.

This variable is applicable to all female persons age 15 years or older.

How this variable is coded

Data for this variable is captured automatically from written numeric responses, or the 'None' mark box. This process is subject to low levels of recognition error.

Variable history

This question was first asked in the 1981 Census. On the 2011 Census form, the question asked for the number of children ever born to each female aged 15 years or more, with an instruction to include live births only. For 2016 were changes to the instructions provided when completing this question. The instruction to include live births only was removed due to the sensitivities involved.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 8.0% (6.0% in 2011).

Data usage notes

The data may include a small proportion of persons with unusually high numbers of children ever born, as all numeric responses are accepted as reported. For the Census online form, females (and persons who identified as 'other sex') aged 15 years and over were asked this question, whereas male respondents were not asked this question.
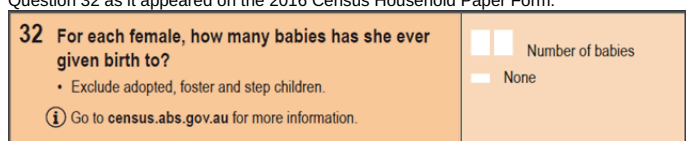
Further information

Ranged data is also available from the variable Number of Children Ever Born (ranges).
A definition for Number of Children Ever Born is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 32 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

TYPP Type of Educational Institution Attending

Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP)

This variable records the type of educational institution each current student is attending. It is applicable to all people who indicated they were currently attending an educational institution.

How this variable is created

Type of Educational Institution Attending data was captured automatically from mark box responses on the form resulting in minimal processing error. The question instructions asked respondents to mark one box only, 5.3% of respondents provided more than one response to the question, In these cases, responses were accepted in the order they appear on the form and the extra responses rejected.

Variable history

Questions relating to current educational institution were first asked during the 1911 Census and have been asked at most censuses since then, though the amount of detail asked has varied. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 2.7% (4.4% for 2011). The non-response rate for Type of Educational Institution Attending is lower than most Census variables as it is only applicable to persons who answered they are a student to the previous question (Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status).

Data usage notes

2016 Census data shows a small proportion (0.8%) of persons aged 75 years and over studying at a secondary school. A possible reason for this is misunderstanding of the question where people may be reporting Highest Year of Schooling Completed rather than their current study.

Further information

A definition of Type of Educational Institution Attending is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information on related data items, see data quality statement for Full-Time/Part-Time Student Status.
Additional sources of information regarding type of educational institution attended can be found in other ABS publications and associated collections. Refer to the Education home page on the ABS website.

Household form question image

Question 25 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

TYSTAP Educational Institution Attendee Status

Educational Institution: Attendee Status (TYSTAP)

This variable combines responses from Type of Educational Institution Attending, Full-Time/Part Time Student Status and Age to indicate a person's attendee status at an educational institution. This variable is applicable to persons attending an educational institution.

How this variable is created

This variable is derived using responses captured from the questions for Type of Educational Institution Attending, Full-Time/Part Time Student Status and the Age on the Census form.

Variable history

Educational Institution: Attendee Status was first created for the 2011 Census. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Educational Institution: Attendee Status does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable persons. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Further Information

For more information on Educational Institution: Attendee Status, refer to the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Questions 4, 24 and 25 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

4 What is the person's date of birth or age?
- If date of birth not known, please give age.
- Example: Day Month Year
  1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8
  OR
  4 8 Years

Day Month Year
OR
Age
Years

24 Is the person attending a school or any other educational institution?
- Include preschool and external or correspondence students.

☐ No ▶ Go to 26
☐ Yes, full-time student
☐ Yes, part-time student

25 What type of educational institution is the person attending?
- Mark one box only.
- Include secondary colleges and senior high schools under the 'Secondary school' category.
- For external or correspondence students, mark the type of institution in which they are enrolled.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬
ⓘ Go to **census.abs.gov.au** for more information.

☐ Preschool

Infants/Primary school
☐ Government
☐ Catholic
☐ Other non-government

Secondary school
☐ Government
☐ Catholic
☐ Other non-government

Tertiary institution
☐ Technical or further educational institution (including TAFE Colleges)
☐ University or other higher educational institution
☐ Other educational institution

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

UAI1P Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator

Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator (UAI1P)

This variable records whether a person lived in the same address one year ago as their current usual residence, whether they lived elsewhere in Australia one year ago, or whether they usually lived in another country one year ago. This variable is applicable for all usual residents of Australia, except for persons aged less than one year.

How this variable is created

Data for this variable is derived from the question of where the person usually lived one year ago. An image of this question is provided below.

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form. Where the indicator mark boxes have been left blank by a respondent but they have reported an address one year ago, Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator is derived based on the address reported. If the respondent does not report either the indicator or the address, they will be set to not stated. However, where a person who is aged under 16 years (i.e. they were aged under 15 years one year ago) does not respond to the usual address one year ago question, but their parent(s) did respond, their Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator is set to the same value as their parent.

For Interviewer Household Forms (IHF), primarily used in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the response options on the form are different. Instead of asking if respondents lived in their place of usual residence one year ago, the form asks if people lived in 'this dwelling' (i.e. the dwelling in which they were enumerated), 'another dwelling in this community', or 'elsewhere, please specify' . The data is re-derived to ensure that the data is comparable to those enumerated using other form types. For Interviewer Household Forms, mobility is considered at the community level rather than at the individual dwelling level.

Variable history

The question relating to the Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator was first asked in the 1976 Census and has been asked at every census since then. The date listed for one year ago was updated.

Non-response rate

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The non-response rate for this variable was 8.3% in 2016 (5.1% in 2011).

Further information

More information on Usual Address 1 year Ago is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information related to Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator, see the data quality statements for Place of Usual Residence, Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago, Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago, Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator.

Household form question image

Question 9 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

Where did the person usually live one year ago (at 9 August 2015)?

- If the person is less than one year old, leave blank.
- For persons who had no usual address on 9 August 2015, write the address at which they were then living.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

☐ Same as in Question 8
☐ Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address)

Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any)

Street number

Street name

Suburb/Locality

State/Territory   Postcode

☐ Other country

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

UAI5P Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator

Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator (UAI5P)

This variable records whether a person lived in the same address five years ago as their current usual residence, whether they lived elsewhere in Australia five years ago, or whether they usually lived in another country five years ago. This variable is applicable for all usual residents of Australia, except for persons aged less than five years.

How this variable is created

Data for this variable is based on the response to the question of where the person usually lived five years ago. An image of this question in the Census Household paper form is provided below.

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form. Where the indicator mark boxes have been left blank by a respondent but they have reported an address five years ago, Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator is derived based on the address reported. If the respondent does not report either the indicator or the address, they will be set to not stated. However, where a person who is aged under 20 years (i.e. they were aged under 15 years one year ago) does not respond to the usual address five years ago question, but their parent(s) did respond, their Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator is set to the same value as their parent.

For Interviewer Household Forms, primarily used in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the response options on the form are different. Instead of asking if respondents lived in their place of usual residence five years ago, the form asks if people lived in 'this dwelling' (i.e. the dwelling in which they were enumerated), 'another dwelling in this community' or 'elsewhere, please specify'. The data is re-derived to ensure that the data is comparable to those enumerated using other form types. For Interviewer Household Forms, mobility is considered at the community level rather than at the individual dwelling level.

Variable history

The question relating to Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator was first asked in the 1971 Census and has been asked at every census since then. The date listed for five years ago has been updated.

In Censuses prior to 2011, there was a separate category for people who had the same address five years ago as for their address one year ago. This allowed users to differentiate between those people who lived at a different address five years ago and one year ago, compared with those who lived at the same address five years ago and one year ago. While the data is collected and processed in the same way, this information is no longer publicly available as it is merged with 'elsewhere in Australia' prior to release.

Non-response rate

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The non-response rate for this variable was 7.3% in 2016 (6.0% in 2011).

Further information

More information on Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information related to Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator, see the data quality statements for Place of Usual Residence, Place of Usual Residence One Year Ago, Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago, Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator.

Household form question image

Question 10 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

10 **Where did the person usually live five years ago (at 9 August 2011)?**

- If the person is less than five years old, leave blank.
- For persons who had no usual address on 9 August 2011, write the address at which they were then living.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

☐ Same as in Question 8
☐ Same as in Question 9
☐ Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address)

Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any)

Street number

Street name

Suburb/Locality

State/Territory   Postcode

☐ Other country

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

UAICP Usual Address Indicator Census Night

Usual Address Indicator (UAICP)

This variable Indicates whether a person was at home or elsewhere on Census night. It contains the answer to the Census question about usual residence, which asks if the person usually lived at the address on the front of the Census form (where they were on Census night), Elsewhere in Australia, or Overseas. It is applicable to all persons.

How this variable is created

The data is largely captured from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is very low. Where the indicator mark boxes have been left blank by a respondent but they have reported a usual address, Usual Address Indicator is derived based on the address reported. Data may also be derived based on the relationship information reported on the form indicating that they are a visitor.

Usual Residence is a key demographic variable. If a person does not state where they usually live, Usual Residence and Place of Usual Residence are imputed. The proportion of persons that had their usual residence imputed in the 2016 Census was 5.3%, (3.7% in 2011). The majority of cases where usual residence was imputed are attributable to persons in occupied dwellings on Census night who did not return a form.

Variable history

A question relating to Usual Residence was first asked in the 1971 Census and has been asked at every census since then. The question instructions have been updated with 2016 dates.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Usual Address Indicator does not have a non-response rate as there is no separate *not stated* category in the classification.

Further information

A definition for Usual Address Indicator is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information on related items, see data quality statements for Place of Usual Residence/Imputation.

Household form question image

Question 8 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

UNCAREP Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability

Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability (UNCAREP)

This variable records people who, in the two weeks prior to Census night, spent time providing unpaid care, help or assistance to family members or others because of a disability, long term illness or problems related to old age. This includes people who are in receipt of a Carer Allowance or Carer Payment but does not include work done through a voluntary organisation or group.This variable is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. In 0.6%, respondents provided an incorrect combination of responses.

Variable history

Questions on unpaid work, including unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, were first asked for the 2006 Census. These questions were repeated for 2011 and 2016. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 8.9% (8.5% in 2011).

Data usage notes

This question asked about care or assistance provided to another person to assist with daily activities because of disability, long term illness or problems related to old age in the two weeks prior to the Census. No information on the amount of time spent on providing such unpaid care was collected. Further to the instructions in the question respondents were directed to include (but is not limited to): bathing, dressing, toileting and feeding someone; helping someone to move around; helping someone understood by others; providing emotional support and helping maintain friendships and social activities; helping with or supervising medication or dressing wounds; cleaning, laundry, cooking, managing diets and preparing meals; performing housework, light household repairs or maintenance, managing household finances; driving or accompanying someone to appointments or activities

Care should be taken when comparing Census data on Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability with information from other surveys and publications. Definitions can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition of Unpaid Assistance to a Person with a Disability is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information about Unpaid work, see the Glossary for Unpaid Work in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
Additional sources of information regarding caring can be found in other ABS publications and associated collections. Refer to the Disability home page on the ABS website.

Household form question image

Question 49 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

VOLWP Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group

Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group (VOLWP)

This variable records people who spent time doing unpaid voluntary work through an organisation or group, in the twelve months prior to Census night. It excludes work done as part of paid employment, in a family business, and if the main reason for the work was to qualify for Government benefit. It is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or older.

How this variable is created

The responses to this question are captured automatically from mark box responses on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. In 0.7% of preprocessed data, respondents provided an incorrect combination of responses. This occurred when both the 'No' and 'Yes' responses were marked. In these cases the 'Yes' response is retained and the 'No' response rejected.

Variable history

Questions on unpaid work, including voluntary work for an organisation or group, were first asked for the 2006 Census. These questions were repeated for 2011 and 2016. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 8.2% (8.2% in 2011).

Data usage notes

This question refers to voluntary work undertaken in the twelve months prior to the Census to include those people who may do voluntary work on an irregular basis as well as those who do it more regularly. However, no information on the amount of time spent on this type of unpaid work was collected. Further to the instructions in the question respondents were directed to include help willingly given in the form of time, service or skills to a club, organisation or association. Unpaid voluntary work can include assisting at organised events and with sports organisations; helping with organised school events and activities; assisting in churches, hospitals, nursing homes and charities; and other kinds of volunteer work (e.g. emergency services, serving on a committee for a club, etc.).

Care should be taken when comparing Census data on Voluntary Work with information from other surveys and publications. Definitions can differ between different statistical collections and may therefore not be comparable.

Further information

A definition of Voluntary Work for an Organisation or Group is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information about Unpaid work, see the Glossary for Unpaid Work in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 51 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

YARP Year of Arrival in Australia

Year of Arrival in Australia (YARP, YARRP)

For people born overseas, this variable states the year they first arrived in Australia, with the intention of staying for at least one year. It is applicable to persons born overseas who will be in Australia for more than one year. The year 2016 refers to the period from 1st January 2016 to 9th August 2016 only.

How the variable is created

The variable Country of Birth of Person is the basis for determining if a person was born in Australia or overseas.

Country of Birth of Person uses the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2016 to classify country of birth. Australia is geographical Australia as defined in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

Data for this variable is captured automatically from written numeric responses, or the 'Will be in Australia less than one year' mark box. This process is subject to low levels of recognition error. High and low values are checked manually to ensure that they match the actual response on the form.

Variable history

A question on year of arrival in Australia, or length of residence, was first asked in the 1911 Census and has been asked in every census since then. The year ranges for Year of Arrival have been updated for the 2016 Census.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 3.5% (4.5% in 2011). Where an applicable person has not provided a year of arrival, but has marked the 'Will be in Australia less than one year' mark box, this response is set to not stated.

Data usage notes

The data includes persons who reported their birth year, current year or future year as their year of arrival, as all numeric responses are accepted as reported.

Further information

A definition of Year of Arrival in Australia is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
Data on Year of Arrival in Australia is also available in ranges Year of Arrival in Australia (ranges).
For related information, see data quality statement for Country of Birth of Person.

Household form question image

Question 13 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CACF Count of All Children in Family

Count of All Children in Family (CACF)

This variable counts the number of dependent and non-dependent children in the family as defined by the Relationship in Household variable (RLHP). It is applicable to all families with children including those who may be absent from the home on Census night.

How this variable is created

Count of All Children in Family is a family variable that is created based on responses to the Relationship in Household and the Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below.

Children who are present are counted directly from the Relationship in Household response. People are counted as temporarily absent from their family when they are included in the persons temporarily absent question. Children who are listed as Persons Temporarily Absent are first assigned to categories based on their Age and Student Status, and then counted in this format. Data Quality Statements for the three Temporarily Absent child categories are linked here:

- Count of Dependent Children Under 15 Temporarily Absent
- Count of Dependent Students (15 - 24 years) Temporarily Absent
- Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2011. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Count of All Children in Family does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Count of All Children in Family should be used with caution when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Count of All Children in Family is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.

For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For more information on Persons Temporarily Absent, see the Census Dictionary glossary entry.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CDCAF Count of Dependent Children Under 15 Temporarily Absent

Count of Dependent Children Under 15 Temporarily Absent (CDCAF)

This variable counts the number of dependent children aged under 15 years that were reported as temporarily absent from the family. It is applicable to couple families with children aged under 15 years.

How this variable is created

Count of Dependent Children Under 15 Temporarily Absent is a family variable that is derived from responses to the Persons Temporarily Absent question on the Census Household Form. People are counted as temporarily absent from their family when they are included in response to the Persons Temporarily Absent question. An image of this question is provided below.

Couple families with dependent children under 15 years accounted for 30.6% of all families reported in the 2016 Census. They include children who were with the family on Census night, and up to three children who were temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night. 3.2% of families reported there were children aged under 15 years temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1996. Prior to this year, information on dependent children was available in a variable called Dependent offspring present (CDPF). This was a single count of dependent children temporarily absent. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Count of Dependent Children Under 15 Temporarily Absent does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Count of Dependent Children Under 15 Temporarily Absent should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Count of Dependent Children Under 15 Temporarily Absent is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For more information on Persons Temporarily Absent, see the Census Dictionary glossary entry.

Household form question image

Question 53 on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CDCF Count of Dependent Children in Family

Count of Dependent Children in Family (CDCF)

This variable counts the number of dependent children in a family. A dependent child is a person who is either a child under 15 years of age, or a dependent student aged 15-24 years. This variable is applicable to all families with children. which accounted for 60.6% of all families reported in the 2016 Census. This includes children who were with the family on Census night, and up to three children who were temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night.

How this variable is created

Count of Dependent Children in Family is a family variable that uses information collected from responses to the Relationship in Household and the Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. This variable is a count of the number of dependent children and is derived from the Relationship in Household and Count of Children Under 15 and Dependent Students (15-24) Temporarily Absent variables. People are counted as temporarily absent from their family when they are included in response to the persons temporarily absent question. Images of these questions are provided below.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2011. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Count of Dependent Children in Family does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Count of Dependent Children in Family should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Count of Dependent Children in Family is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For more information on Persons Temporarily Absent, see the Census Dictionary glossary entry.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

CDSAF Count of Dependent Students (15-24 years) Temporarily Absent

Count of Dependent Students (15-24 years) Temporarily Absent (CDSAF)

This variable counts the number of dependent students, aged 15-24 years that were reported as temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night. This variable is applicable to families with dependent students aged 15-24 years, which accounted for 14.8% of all families reported in the 2016 Census. This includes children who were with the family on Census night, and up to three children who were temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night. For the applicable population, 6.3% of families reported there were dependent students aged 15-24 years temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night.

How this variable is created

CDSAF is a family variable that is derived from responses to the Persons Temporarily Absent question on the Census Household Form. People are counted as temporarily absent from their family when they are included in response to the Persons Temporarily Absent question. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1996. Prior to this year information on dependent children was available in a variable called Dependent offspring present (CDPF). This was a single count of dependent children temporarily absent. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Count of Dependent Children in Family does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Count of Dependent Children in Family should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Count of Dependent Children in Family is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Count of Dependent Children in Family, see data quality statement for Family Composition and Relationship in Household.
For more information on Persons Temporarily Absent, see the Census Dictionary glossary entry.

Household form question image

Question 53 as it appears on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

CNDAF Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent

Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent (CNDAF)

This variable counts the number of non-dependent children reported as temporarily absent from the family on Census night. This variable is applicable to families with non-dependent children, which accounted for 19.2% of all families reported in the 2016 Census. For the applicable population 11.3% of families reported there were non-dependent children temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night.

How this variable is created

Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent is derived from responses from the Persons Temporarily Absent question on the Census Household Form. People are counted as temporarily absent from their family when they are included in the Persons Temporarily Absent question. This variable counts the persons who are identified as being a non-dependent child of the residents in the household. A non-dependent child refers to a natural, adopted, step or foster child of a couple or lone parent usually resident in the household, who is aged 15 years and over and is not a full-time student aged 15-24 years, and who has no identified partner or child of his/her own usually resident in the household.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1996. It replaced a variable called Other offspring temporarily absent (COAF). No changes were made to this variable in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For more information on Persons Temporarily Absent, see the Census Dictionary glossary entry.

Household form question image

Question 53 on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CNDCF Count of Non-Dependent Children in Family

Count of Non-Dependent Children in Family (CNDCF)

This variable counts the number of non-dependent children in the family. It includes up to three non-dependent children who were temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night. This variable is applicable to all families with children, which accounted for 60.6% of all families reported in the 2016 Census. This includes children who were with the family on Census night, and up to three children who were temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night.

How this variable is created

Count of Non-Dependent Children in Family is a family variable that uses information collected from responses to the Relationship in Household and Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below. People are counted as temporarily absent from their family when they are included in response to the Persons Temporarily Absent question on the Census Household Form. This variable provides a count of the number of non-dependent children and is derived from the Relationship in Household and Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent variables.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2011. No changes were made to this variable in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Count of Non-Dependent Children in Family does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Count of Non-Dependent Children in Family should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Count of Non-Dependent Children in Family is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For more information on Persons Temporarily Absent, see the Census Dictionary glossary entry.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name	First or given name	First or given name
	Surname or family name	Surname or family name	Surname or family name
Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person away.	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female
What is the person's date of birth or age? • If date of birth not known, please give age. Example: Day Month Year `1 3` `0 1` `1 9 6 8` OR `4 8` Years	Day Month Year OR Age ☐☐☐ Years	Day Month Year OR Age ☐☐☐ Years	Day Month Year OR Age ☐☐☐ Years
Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander
Is the person a full-time student?	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes
What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2? • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CPAF Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Family

Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Family (CPAF)

This variable counts the total number of people who were reported as temporarily absent from the family on Census night. The count of persons temporarily absent includes husbands/wives, de facto partners, and children (dependent children aged under 15 years, dependent students (15-24 years) and non-dependent children). This variable is applicable to families in family households. Of all families, 8.0% reported that a family member was absent from the dwelling on Census night.

How this variable is created

Count of Persons Temporarily Absent is a family variable that is derived from the Persons Temporarily Absent question on the Census Household Form. People are counted as temporarily absent from their family when they are included in response to the Persons Temporarily Absent question. An image of this question is provided below.

Persons reported as temporarily absent are then subject to a further process so that only persons who are part of the main family structure are included in Count of Persons Temporarily Absent. These persons are either a partner, a child or a grandchild. Any other family members who are not identified as members of the main family structure are removed.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1996. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Count of Persons Temporarily Absent does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Count of Persons Temporarily Absent should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Count of Persons Temporarily Absent is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For more information on Persons Temporarily Absent, see the Census Dictionary glossary entry.

Household form question image

Question 53 as it appears on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name	First or given name	First or given name
	Surname or family name	Surname or family name	Surname or family name

Is the person male or female?
• Mark one box for each person away.

| | Male ☐ / Female ☐ | Male ☐ / Female ☐ | Male ☐ / Female ☐ |

What is the person's date of birth or age?
• If date of birth not known, please give age. Example:

Day Month Year
1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8
OR
4 8 Years

| | Day Month Year __ OR Age __ Years | Day Month Year __ OR Age __ Years | Day Month Year __ OR Age __ Years |

Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
• For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.

| | ☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander | ☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander | ☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander |

Is the person a full-time student?

| | ☐ No ☐ Yes | ☐ No ☐ Yes | ☐ No ☐ Yes |

What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
• Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.

| | ☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) | ☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) | ☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) |

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CPRF Count of Persons in Family

Count of Persons in Family (CPRF)

This variable counts the number of persons in a family. It includes other related individuals who are not part of the primary couple relationship, and other related individuals who are not part of a lone parent-child relationship or other blood relationship (e.g. it includes in-laws).

It is applicable to all families in family households.

How this variable is created

Count of Persons in Family uses information collected from the Relationship in Household and Persons Temporarily Absent on Census night questions. It is derived from the Relationship in Household and Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Family variables. It includes up to three persons who were temporarily absent from the family on Census night.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2011. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Count of Persons in Family does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Count of Persons in Family should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for CPRF is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For more information on Persons Temporarily Absent, see the Census Dictionary glossary entry.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

5 What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?

- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

No answer required for Person 1

- [ ] Husband or wife of Person 1
- [ ] De facto partner of Person 1
- [ ] Child of Person 1
- [ ] Stepchild of Person 1
- [ ] Brother or sister of Person 1
- [ ] Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1

Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name / Surname or family name	First or given name / Surname or family name	First or given name / Surname or family name
Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person away.	[ ] Male [ ] Female	[ ] Male [ ] Female	[ ] Male [ ] Female
What is the person's date of birth or age? • If date of birth not known, please give age. Example: Day Month Year 1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8 OR 4 8 Years	Day Month Year OR Age ☐☐ Years	Day Month Year OR Age ☐☐ Years	Day Month Year OR Age ☐☐ Years
Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	[ ] No [ ] Yes, Aboriginal [ ] Yes, Torres Strait Islander	[ ] No [ ] Yes, Aboriginal [ ] Yes, Torres Strait Islander	[ ] No [ ] Yes, Aboriginal [ ] Yes, Torres Strait Islander
Is the person a full-time student?	[ ] No [ ] Yes	[ ] No [ ] Yes	[ ] No [ ] Yes
What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2? • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.	[ ] Husband or wife of Person 1 [ ] De facto partner of Person 1 [ ] Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 [ ] Child of Person 1 only [ ] Child of Person 2 only [ ] Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	[ ] Husband or wife of Person 1 [ ] De facto partner of Person 1 [ ] Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 [ ] Child of Person 1 only [ ] Child of Person 2 only [ ] Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	[ ] Husband or wife of Person 1 [ ] De facto partner of Person 1 [ ] Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 [ ] Child of Person 1 only [ ] Child of Person 2 only [ ] Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

FBLF Family Blending

Family Blending (FBLF)

This variable is applicable to couple families with children and has eight categories.This variable classifies couple families living in private dwellings, based on the parent-child relationships within them. Temporarily absent children are also taken into consideration.

How this variable is created

Family Blending data is derived mainly from the Relationship in Household question on the Census Household Form. Temporarily absent children are taken into consideration when classifying families. Images of these questions are provided below. Families are only derived for occupied private dwellings where a family composition can be determined from the relationship within the household.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2006. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Family Blending does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more

than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Reporting relationships in respect to 'Person 1' on the Household Form can make it difficult to establish the relationships which exist in a household, especially in those dwellings containing a blended family. In some cases, additional information such as surname, usual residence and marital status are used during data processing to help determine these relationships.

If a child is listed on the Census Form as 'Person 2' and both parents are usual residents, the response 'Child of both Person 1 and Person 2' is not available in the relationship question for 'Person 2'. In these cases an attempt is made to establish whether the child was a step-child or child of both parents using information such as surname. Preliminary analysis of the data indicates that despite these attempts there may be a small proportion of children coded to 'step-child' who may be a child of both parents. There may also be cases where the child of reference person (and a step-child of the partner) is incorrectly coded as a child of both parents.

Family Blending should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for FBLF is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary with additional information available in the Glossary.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

FIDF Family Income Derivation Indicator

Family Income Derivation Indicator (FIDF)

This variable identifies families where one or more family members were; temporarily absent, did not state their income, or stated a negative income. Family Income Derivation Indicator is applicable to all families in family households.

How this variable is created

Data for this variable is collected from the Relationship in Household, Income and Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. Family Income Derivation Indicator is derived from the Family Composition and Total Personal Income variables. It also uses the Count of Persons/Dependent Children Temporarily Absent from Family variables to isolate families with members aged 15 and over temporarily absent on Census night.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1991. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Family Income Derivation Indicator does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Family Income Derivation Indicator can be used in conjunction with Total Personal Income (weekly) to create a new family income variable. Family Income Derivation Indicator can also be used to estimate the impact on total family income caused by negative/no income or persons temporarily absent.

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Family Income Derivation Indicator should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Family Income Derivation Indicator is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Family Income Derivation see data quality statement for Total Personal Income (weekly), Relationship in Household and Family Composition.

Household form question image

Questions 5, 33 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢ Surname or family name ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢	First or given name ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢ Surname or family name ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢	First or given name ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢ Surname or family name ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢
Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person away.	▢ Male ▢ Female	▢ Male ▢ Female	▢ Male ▢ Female
What is the person's date of birth or age? • If date of birth not known, please give age. Example: Day Month Year 1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8 OR 4 8 Years	Day Month Year ▢▢ ▢▢ ▢▢▢▢ **OR** Age ▢▢▢ Years	Day Month Year ▢▢ ▢▢ ▢▢▢▢ **OR** Age ▢▢▢ Years	Day Month Year ▢▢ ▢▢ ▢▢▢▢ **OR** Age ▢▢▢ Years
Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	▢ No ▢ Yes, Aboriginal ▢ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	▢ No ▢ Yes, Aboriginal ▢ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	▢ No ▢ Yes, Aboriginal ▢ Yes, Torres Strait Islander
Is the person a full-time student?	▢ No ▢ Yes	▢ No ▢ Yes	▢ No ▢ Yes
What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2? • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.	▢ Husband or wife of Person 1 ▢ De facto partner of Person 1 ▢ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ▢ Child of Person 1 only ▢ Child of Person 2 only ▢ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢	▢ Husband or wife of Person 1 ▢ De facto partner of Person 1 ▢ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ▢ Child of Person 1 only ▢ Child of Person 2 only ▢ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢	▢ Husband or wife of Person 1 ▢ De facto partner of Person 1 ▢ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ▢ Child of Person 1 only ▢ Child of Person 2 only ▢ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) ▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢▢

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

FINASF Total Family Income as Stated (weekly)

Total Family Income as Stated (weekly) (FINASF)

This variable records the sum of the Total Personal Income (weekly) of each family member aged 15 years and over present in the household on Census night who stated their income. Total Family Income as Stated (weekly) is applicable to all families where one or more members is aged 15 and over.

How this variable is created

Data for this variable is derived from the Relationship in Household, Income and Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below.

Total Family Income as Stated (weekly) is calculated by summing the personal incomes reported by all family members aged 15 years and over. The Census collects personal income in ranges, so before these can be summed a specific dollar amount needs to be allocated to each person. Median incomes for each range, derived using data from the Survey of Income and Housing are used for this purpose.

The income ranges for Total Family Income as Stated (weekly) include families where one or more family members aged 15 years and over did not state their income, or were temporarily absent. For the Total Family Income (weekly) variable these families would be excluded from the family income calculation. They would be coded to the Total Family Income (weekly) category 'Partial income stated'.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2006. For the 2016 Census, categories for family income in dollar ranges have been revised**.**

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality

The non-response rate for this variable where all persons in the family did not state an income was 1.5% (2.0% in 2011).

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally, due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Total Family Income as Stated (weekly) can be used in conjunction with Total Personal Income (weekly) to create a new family income variable. Total Family Income as Stated (weekly) should be used with caution when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Total Family Income as Stated (weekly) is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.

Household form question image

Questions 5, 33 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

5 What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?

- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

No answer required for Person 1

- Husband or wife of Person 1
- De facto partner of Person 1
- Child of Person 1
- Stepchild of Person 1
- Brother or sister of Person 1
- Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1

Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

33 What is the *total* of all income the person *usually* receives?

- Mark **one** box only.
- Do *not* deduct: tax, superannuation contributions, amounts salary sacrificed, or any other automatic deductions.
- Include:

Wages and salaries
- Regular overtime
- Commissions and bonuses

Government pensions, benefits and allowances
- Age pension   - Youth and student
- Family tax benefit   allowances
- Parenting payment   - Carer allowance
- Disability support pension - Any other government
- Newstart allowance   pension/allowance

Profit or loss from
- Unincorporated business/farm (e.g. sole traders, partnerships)
- Rental properties

Other income
- Income from   - Interest
  superannuation   - Dividends from shares
- Private pensions   - Workers' compensation
- Child support   - Any other income

- Information from this question provides an indication of living standards in different areas.

(i) Go to **census.abs.gov.au** for more information.

$3,000 or more per week $156,000 or more per year	$3,000 or more per week $156,000 or more per year
$2,000 - $2,999 per week $104,000 - $155,999 per year	$2,000 - $2,999 per week $104,000 - $155,999 per year
$1,750 - $1,999 per week $91,000 - $103,999 per year	$1,750 - $1,999 per week $91,000 - $103,999 per year
$1,500 - $1,749 per week $78,000 - $90,999 per year	$1,500 - $1,749 per week $78,000 - $90,999 per year
$1,250 - $1,499 per week $65,000 - $77,999 per year	$1,250 - $1,499 per week $65,000 - $77,999 per year
$1,000 - $1,249 per week $52,000 - $64,999 per year	$1,000 - $1,249 per week $52,000 - $64,999 per year
$800 - $999 per week $41,600 - $51,999 per year	$800 - $999 per week $41,600 - $51,999 per year
$650 - $799 per week $33,800 - $41,599 per year	$650 - $799 per week $33,800 - $41,599 per year
$500 - $649 per week $26,000 - $33,799 per year	$500 - $649 per week $26,000 - $33,799 per year
$400 - $499 per week $20,800 - $25,999 per year	$400 - $499 per week $20,800 - $25,999 per year
$300 - $399 per week $15,600 - $20,799 per year	$300 - $399 per week $15,600 - $20,799 per year
$150 - $299 per week $7,800 - $15,599 per year	$150 - $299 per week $7,800 - $15,599 per year
$1 - $149 per week $1 - $7,799 per year	$1 - $149 per week $1 - $7,799 per year
Nil income	Nil income
Negative income	Negative income

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

| Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016. | First or given name | First or given name | First or given name |
| | Surname or family name | Surname or family name | Surname or family name |

Is the person male or female?
• Mark one box for each person away.

| | Male / Female | Male / Female | Male / Female |

What is the person's date of birth or age?
• If date of birth not known, please give age. Example:

Day Month Year
1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8
OR
4 8 Years

| Day Month Year — OR Age — Years | Day Month Year — OR Age — Years | Day Month Year — OR Age — Years |

Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
• For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.

| No / Yes, Aboriginal / Yes, Torres Strait Islander | No / Yes, Aboriginal / Yes, Torres Strait Islander | No / Yes, Aboriginal / Yes, Torres Strait Islander |

Is the person a full-time student?

| No / Yes | No / Yes | No / Yes |

What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
• Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.

| Husband or wife of Person 1 / De facto partner of Person 1 / Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 / Child of Person 1 only / Child of Person 2 only / Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 / Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) | (same) | (same) |

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

FMCF Family Composition

Family Composition (FMCF)

Family Composition classifies families into different types. When classifying families into different types, information about temporarily absent family members is used. This variable is applicable to all Families in Family households.

How this variable is created

In the Census, data for families and households is mainly derived from the relationship questions on the Census Household Form, which asks for each person's relationship to 'Person 1'. Images of these questions are provided below. During data processing, families are then identified and created based around a 'family reference person'. In 93.4% of cases 'Person 1' is the family reference person. For cases where a child or non-family member was listed as 'Person 1', a more appropriate person is selected to be the reference person.

This variable distinguishes between different types of families based on the presence or absence of couple relationships, parent-child relationships, child dependency relationships or other familial relationships, in that order of preference. Families are classified in terms of the relationships that exist between a single family reference person and each other member of that family.

Reporting relationships in respect of 'Person 1' on the form, can make it difficult to establish all the relationships that exist in a household, or to identify whether more than one family is living in the dwelling. In some cases, additional information such as surname, usual residence and marital status are used during data processing to help determine these relationships.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in the 2006 Census to replace Family Type. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality. Family Composition does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families.

Data usage notes

For many households, identifying the family structure for a dwelling is quite straightforward. However, across the community, a wide variety of living arrangements exist therefore family structures can be complex and dynamic in nature. The quality of family data in the Census is dependent on people's ability to describe these relationships within the constraints of the generalised questionnaire format required by a Census.

Further information

Classification information on Family Composition is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

5 What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

No answer required for Person 1

- ☐ Husband or wife of Person 1
- ☐ De facto partner of Person 1
- ☐ Child of Person 1
- ☐ Stepchild of Person 1
- ☐ Brother or sister of Person 1
- ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1
- Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

53 For each person _away_, complete the following questions:

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was _away_ on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.

First or given name

Surname or family name

Is the person male or female?
- Mark one box for each person away.

☐ Male ☐ Female

What is the person's date of birth or age?
- If date of birth not known, please give age. Example:
  Day Month Year
  1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8
  OR
  4 8 Years

Day Month Year
OR
Age ___ Years

Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
- For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.

☐ No
☐ Yes, Aboriginal
☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander

Is the person a full-time student?

☐ No
☐ Yes

What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.

☐ Husband or wife of Person 1
☐ De facto partner of Person 1
☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2
☐ Child of Person 1 only
☐ Child of Person 2 only
☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1
Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

FMGF Grandparent Families

Grandparent Families (FMGF)

This variable classifies families into different family structures depending on the composition of the family. It differs from the standard family composition variable in that it recognises grandparent-grandchild relationships.

This variable is applicable to all families with grandchildren.

How this variable is created

Grandparent families are derived from the Relationship in Household and Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below. They are recognised from the Relationship in Household question where an 'Other relationship' is written in with a response indicating a grandchild relationship, such as 'granddaughter' or 'grandson'.

Grandparent families are recognised where there is a grandparent-grandchild relationship present and no parent-child relationship present in a family. This information is then combined with Family Composition data to derive Grandparent Families variable categories.

When using standard variables (see below for more information), a person who is aged 15 years or more and has the relationship of 'grandchild' is treated as an 'other relative'. If there is a sole grandparent in the family, the family is coded as an 'other family'. A grandparent couple would be coded as a 'couple family with no children and with relatives'. When using grandparent variables, this person, who is aged 15 years or more and has the relationship of 'grandchild', is treated as a type of 'child'. A sole grandparent is classified as a 'lone parent' and a family with a grandparent couple is classified as a 'couple family with children'. The grandchild would have a relationship of 'dependent student' or 'non-dependent child' rather than 'other relative'.

Due to these differences in definitions, the 'grandparent' variables should not used in combination with the standard variables, as this could result in misleading data.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2011 to enable grandparent families to be identified more easily within the data. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. The Grandparent Families variable does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

The focus of this variable is on grandparent families, and should only be used in conjunction with other related grandparent/grandchild classifications.

Variations on the composition of grandparent families can be very detailed. When requesting customised data, users should take into account whether the grandparent families of interest contain only grandchildren under 15 years of age or if they also contain dependent student grandchildren aged 15-24 and/or non-dependent grandchildren of any age. Other considerations include whether or not there are other related children in the family.

This variable is not included in standard census data products. It is available in TableBuilder Pro or through custom data requests. It can be used in combination with other person, family and dwelling variables.

Users should note that grandparent-grandchild relationships are constructed for the purposes of family coding in order to create a statistical family. It may not be representative of who provides care, for example a grandparent caring for their grandchild or vice versa.

The limited information can also result in incorrectly identifying some children as grandchildren in the family and incorrectly identifying relationships as grandparent-grandchild relationships. For example, if a parent is temporarily absent from the family and their relationship reported does not confirm their relationship to their child, that parent-child relationship cannot be coded. This can result in a small number of children being reported as grandchildren when a parent is simply absent on Census night.

Further information

A definition for Grandparent Families is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary with additional information available in the Glossary.
For information related to Grandparent Families, see data quality statements for related information for Child Type, see data quality statements Child Type and Family Composition.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name	First or given name	First or given name
	Surname or family name	Surname or family name	Surname or family name

Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person away.	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female

What is the person's date of birth or age? • If date of birth not known, please give age. Example: Day Month Year **1 3** **0 1** **1 9 6 8** OR **4 8** Years	Day Month Year OR Age ☐☐☐ Years	Day Month Year OR Age ☐☐☐ Years	Day Month Year OR Age ☐☐☐ Years

Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander

Is the person a full-time student?	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes

What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2? • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

FNOF Family Number

Family Number (FNOF)

This variable categorises each family as either the primary, second or third family within the household. Families in a one family household are always classified as the primary family.

This variable is applicable to all families in family households.

How this variable is created

Family number is based on the relationships people have with other within the same house. It is mainly derived from the Relationship in Household question on the Census Household Form. An image of this question is provided below. Persons reported as temporarily absent are also considered when this variable is derived.

Where there is more than one family in a household on Census night, the family with dependent children is designated as the primary family or in multi-generational households, the younger family. If there was more than one family, and no children were present in the household, then the first family identified on the census form becomes the primary family.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1971, to replace the previously used Family Group (FMGF). The mnemonic used has changed several times.

No changes were made to this variable in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Non-response does not apply to family variables, including Family Number. Families are derived for occupied private dwellings where a family composition can be determined from the relationship within the household (RLHP) responses. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

In a multiple family household, a maximum of three families can be identified within a single dwelling. This is in accordance with current ABS standards. In cases where more than three families are identified in a household, the first three families are coded and the other persons are classified as either related family members of the primary family or non-family members. While this may have only a small effect on total family numbers overall, the impact may be more significant among population groups whom live in multi-generational households or with large numbers of extended family members.

The term 'Primary family' is an ABS term that is used to aid coding of household relationships. This should not be misinterpreted as signifying that this is the main family in the household or the family that owns the house or for another reason, other than for ABS relationship coding purposes.

Further information

The variable content for Family Number is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information on family number, see the Census Dictionary glossary entry.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.

For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.

Household form question image

Question 5 as it appears on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

FRLF Relationship Between Families

Relationship Between Families (FRLF)

This variable describes the relationship between families within a household. The relationship described is that of the second (or subsequent family) to the primary family. For instance, if a household contained two families where the primary family consists of a couple family with children and the second family consists of the parents of the reference person of the primary family, the relationship between families of the second family is 'Mother's/father's family'. This variable is applicable to families that live in households with one or more other families.

How this variable is created

Data for this variable is derived mainly from the Relationship in Household and the Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. These questions are used to determine the relationships people have with others in a multi-family household. Images of these question are provided below.

From these relationships, during data processing families and subsequently the relationships between families derive the relationship of each family to the household's 'primary family'. A 'primary family' is an ABS term that is used to aid coding of household relationships, and should not be misinterpreted as signifying the family that owns the house, or the 'main' family for any reason other than ABS family and household coding purposes.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1991. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Relationship Between Families does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Relationship Between Families categories of 'Mother's/father's family' (FRLF category 1) and 'Son's/daughter's family' (FRLF category 3) are complementary. To find the number of families living with a family that contains a parent or child of one of the family members, users should consider both of these categories combined. Users are faced with a similar situation when looking at 'Grandparent's families' and 'Grandchild families' (FRLF categories 2 and 4). Any one of these categories used in isolation will not give a full count of family pairs bound by a specified relationship.

Further Information

The variable content for Relationship Between Families is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For related information see data quality statements for Relationship in Household and Family Composition.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name	First or given name	First or given name
	Surname or family name	Surname or family name	Surname or family name

Is the person male or female?
- Mark one box for each person away.

	Person A	Person B	Person C
	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female

What is the person's date of birth or age?
- If date of birth not known, please give age. Example:

Day Month Year
1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8
OR
4 8 Years

Day Month Year	Day Month Year	Day Month Year
OR Age ☐☐☐ Years	OR Age ☐☐☐ Years	OR Age ☐☐☐ Years

Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
- For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.

☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander

Is the person a full-time student?

☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes

What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.

☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HCFMF Family Household Composition (Family)

Family Household Composition (HCFMF)

This variable combines responses from two variables, Household Composition and Family Composition to identify family structure(s) within the dwelling. This variable is applicable to all families in family households.

How this variable is created

This variable is derived from responses to the Relationship in Household and the Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below.

During the processing of Census data, family and household structures are identified and created based around a 'family or household reference person', this is usually Person 1 on the Census Household Form This item is then derived from the Family Composition and Household Composition variables.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2011. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Family Household Composition does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Family Household Composition should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Family Household Composition is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

5 What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?

- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

No answer required for Person 1

- [ ] Husband or wife of Person 1
- [ ] De facto partner of Person 1
- [ ] Child of Person 1
- [ ] Stepchild of Person 1
- [ ] Brother or sister of Person 1
- [ ] Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1

Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

	Person	Person	Person
Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name / Surname or family name	First or given name / Surname or family name	First or given name / Surname or family name
Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person away.	[ ] Male [ ] Female	[ ] Male [ ] Female	[ ] Male [ ] Female
What is the person's date of birth or age? • If date of birth not known, please give age. Example: Day Month Year 1 3 / 0 1 / 1 9 6 8 OR 4 8 Years	Day Month Year OR Age ___ Years	Day Month Year OR Age ___ Years	Day Month Year OR Age ___ Years
Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	[ ] No [ ] Yes, Aboriginal [ ] Yes, Torres Strait Islander	[ ] No [ ] Yes, Aboriginal [ ] Yes, Torres Strait Islander	[ ] No [ ] Yes, Aboriginal [ ] Yes, Torres Strait Islander
Is the person a full-time student?	[ ] No [ ] Yes	[ ] No [ ] Yes	[ ] No [ ] Yes
What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2? • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.	[ ] Husband or wife of Person 1 [ ] De facto partner of Person 1 [ ] Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 [ ] Child of Person 1 only [ ] Child of Person 2 only [ ] Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	[ ] Husband or wife of Person 1 [ ] De facto partner of Person 1 [ ] Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 [ ] Child of Person 1 only [ ] Child of Person 2 only [ ] Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	[ ] Husband or wife of Person 1 [ ] De facto partner of Person 1 [ ] Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 [ ] Child of Person 1 only [ ] Child of Person 2 only [ ] Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

LFSF Labour Force Status of Parents and Partners in Families

Labour Force Status of Parents/Partners in Families (LFSF)

This variable indicates the labour force status of parents or partners in couple and lone parent families. This variable is applicable to all families in family households.

How this variable is created

Labour Force Status of Parents/Partners in Families is derived using data from Relationship in Household, Family Composition, Labour Force Status and Hours Worked. Images of these questions are provided below.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2011. Some minor phrasing changes were made to this variable in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Labour Force Status of Parents/Partners in Families does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Further information

A definition of Labour Force Status of Parents/Partners in Families is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information related to Labour Force Status of Parents/Partners in Families, see data quality statements for Relationship in Household, Family Composition, Labour Force Status and Hours Worked.

Household form question image

Data for this variable is derived from the following questions on the Census Household Form:

- Question 5, which is used to relationship to 'Person 1'/'Person 2',
- Questions 34, which are used to determine Labour Force Status, and
- Question 44, which is used to determine Hours Worked.

Questions 5, 34 and 44 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

5 What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
- Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

No answer required for Person 1

- Husband or wife of Person 1
- De facto partner of Person 1
- Child of Person 1
- Stepchild of Person 1
- Brother or sister of Person 1
- Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1
- Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

34 Last week, did the person have a job of any kind?
- Mark one box only.
- A 'job' means any type of work including casual, temporary, part-time or full-time work, if it was for one hour or more.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬
- (i) Go to census.abs.gov.au for more information.

- Yes, worked for payment or profit
- Yes, but absent on holidays, on paid leave, on strike, or temporarily stood down
- Yes, unpaid work in a family business ▶ Go to 38
- Yes, other unpaid work ▶ Go to 46
- No, did not have a job ▶ Go to 46

44 Last week, how many hours did the person work in all jobs?
- Add any overtime or extra time worked and subtract any time off.

Hours worked

None

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

SPLF Location of Spouse

Location of Spouse (SPLF)

This variable is used for couples or couple families to identify cases where the spouse is present or temporarily absent from a couple family household on Census night. This variable is applicable to Couple families in family households which accounts for 82.5% of all families. The proportion of couple families where a spouse was reported as being temporarily absent was 5.3%.

How this variable is created

Data used to produce Location of Spouse is captured from responses for those reported as being temporarily absent on Census night on the Census Household Form. When a person is temporarily absent only a small proportion of their characteristics are collected. These are sex, age, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, student status and the person's relationship to 'Person 1'/ 'Person 2'.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1986. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Location of Spouse does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

People may be missed from the persons temporarily absent section of the form as they are not present in the household when the form is being filled out. This can occur in both family and group households. Additionally due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent from the dwelling. If more than three people are absent from the household the additional persons are unable to be included on the form.

Location of Spouse should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

Information on Location of Spouse is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 53 as it appears on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	First or given name	First or given name	First or given name
	Surname or family name	Surname or family name	Surname or family name
Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person away.	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female
What is the person's date of birth or age? • If date of birth not known, please give age. Example: Day Month Year 1 3 01 1 9 6 8 OR 4 8 Years	Day Month Year OR Age Years	Day Month Year OR Age Years	Day Month Year OR Age Years
Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander
Is the person a full-time student?	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes
What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2? • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

SSCF Same-Sex Couple Indicator

Same-Sex Couple Indicator (SSCF)

This variable indicates whether or not two persons of the same sex who reported a de facto or married partnership in the Relationship in Household question, and who are usually resident in the same household, are a same-sex couple. This variable is applicable for all couple families.

How this variable is created

A same-sex couple is counted when information about being in a same-sex couple relationship is reported at the Relationship in Household question on the Census Household form. This question asks for each person's relationship to 'Person 1' on the form. Where two persons of the same sex have reported their relationships as either 'Husband or wife', or 'De facto partner' it is used in family coding and the person is classified as a 'partner in a de facto marriage' for the Relationship in Household person data item. This information is then used to derive the Same-Sex Couple Indicator.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2011. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Same-Sex Couple Indicator does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable families. Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Same-Sex Couple Indicator should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Same-Sex Couple Indicator is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary with additional information available in the Glossary.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.

Household form question image

Question 5 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

5	What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?	No answer required for Person 1	Husband or wife of Person 1
	• Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.		De facto partner of Person 1
	• Remember to mark the box like this: ▬		Child of Person 1

Husband or wife of Person 1
De facto partner of Person 1
Child of Person 1
Stepchild of Person 1
Brother or sister of Person 1
Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1
Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

BEDD Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling

Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (BEDD and BEDRD)

This variable provides a single count of all bedrooms in each occupied private dwelling, including caravans in caravan parks. It is applicable to all occupied private dwellings.

How this variable is created

Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling is a dwelling variable that is created based on responses given for the Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling question on the Census Household Form. An image of this question is provided below.

Data for this variable is captured automatically from written numeric responses, or the 'None' mark box can be marked. Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling codes numeric responses from 0 to 29 bedrooms as reported. Responses of 30 or more bedrooms are coded into the grouped category '30 or more bedrooms'.

The Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling (ranges) variable groups responses to this question differently, responses from 0 to 5 are reported singly, responses for 6 or more bedrooms are coded into the grouped category of '6 or more bedrooms'.

Variable history

A question on the number of rooms/bedrooms has been included in every Australian Census since 1911, however the question relating to Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling was first asked for the 1976 Census.

While the 1986 Census Household Form asked householders to indicate the numbers of various room types, only the number of bedrooms was retained in the computer record. The 1991 and 1996 Censuses collected data on the number of bedrooms only. Since the 2001 Census, respondents have been asked to write in the number of bedrooms in their dwelling rather than mark a response category.

An additional 'None' mark box was added in 2006. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many questions were not responded to as a proportion of the total number of questions applicable to the dwelling. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the households who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 7.4% (5.4% in 2011).

Data usage notes

Dwellings with a high number of bedrooms reported were checked manually to ensure that they match the actual response on the form. The data may include a small proportion of dwellings with unusually large numbers of bedrooms, as all numeric responses are accepted as reported.

This classification is used to calculate the average number of persons per bedroom in the QuickStats and Community Profiles products. There has been a change in methodology used to calculate the average number of persons per bedroom between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses. More information on this can change can be found in this publication on the Comparing the average number of persons per bedroom over time page.

Further information

A definition of Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 55 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

| 55 | How many bedrooms are there in this dwelling? | Number of bedrooms |
| | • If the dwelling is a bedsitter, mark the 'None' box like this: ▬ | None |

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CPAD Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Household

Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Household (CPAD)

This variable counts the total number of people who were reported as temporarily absent from the household on Census night. Count of Persons Temporarily Absent for Household is applicable to family and group households.

How this variable is created

Count of Persons Temporarily Absent for Household is a dwelling variable that is derived from the Persons Temporarily Absent question on the Census Household Form. An image of this question is provided below.

Due to form limitations a maximum of three people can be reported and coded as temporarily absent. This count includes husbands/wives, de facto partners, unrelated

flatmates or co-tenants and children (i.e. dependent children under 15 years, dependent students (15-24) and non-dependent children). This variable is applicable to 63.1% of all dwellings. Of these, 8.6% reported persons temporarily absent from the dwelling on Census night.

Variable history

This question was first asked in the 1986 census. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rates only apply to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Count of Persons Temporarily Absent for Household does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

This data is subject to a family coding process so that only those persons who form a family nucleus (that is partners, children and grandchildren aged under 15 years), and unrelated persons living in group households are included. Family members who are not identified as members of the family nucleus are not included in Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Household.

Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Household, like all other 'persons absent' Census variables, should be used carefully. Previous studies on Census data have shown that people can be omitted from the persons temporarily absent section of the form simply because they are not there when the form is being filled out (for both family and group households), and also due to there being space for only three persons to be listed as temporarily absent when there may in fact be four or more people absent.

Further information

A definition of Count of Persons Temporarily Absent for Household is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 53 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

DLOD Dwelling Location

Dwelling Location (DLOD)

This variable provides information about the location of dwellings other than a 'typical' private dwelling. It is used to identify whether dwellings of a specific structure, such as caravans, are located in communal locations, such as in a caravan park. This classification complements the private dwelling structure classification and enables the ABS to meet user requirements for data about these less common forms of housing and their occupants. This variable is applicable to all private dwellings.

How this variable is created

In 2016 there was a change in the way this information was collected. The collection of Dwelling Location data was recorded by ABS Address Canvassing Officers prior to the Census, as part of establishing the Address Register as a mail-out frame for designated areas. In areas enumerated using the traditional approach of delivering forms, the information was collected by ABS Field Officers during the Census collection period. Although the dwelling location was predominately collected by address canvassers in mail out areas, Census Field Officers verified dwelling location during the enumeration period.

If the Dwelling Location could not be determined it was set to 'Other'. The majority of private dwellings fall into the 'Other' category for this data item.

Variable history

This variable was introduced for the 1996 Census to cater for changes in the scope of private dwellings.

From the 2006 Census onwards information regarding this variable has been collected by ABS Field officers rather than being included on the Census Household form. From 2006 the description for 'Caravan park' changed to 'Caravan/residential park or camping ground', and the description for 'Accommodation for the retired or aged (self-care)' changed to 'Retirement village (self-contained).

Even though the collection method changed for the 2016 Census (as stated above) the variable categories were unchanged for the 2016 census.

Non-response rate

Dwelling Location does not have a non-response rate as it is assigned by ABS Field officers to all private dwellings during Census enumeration or processing.

Data usage notes

As this variable is determined by ABS Field Staff, the risk of processing error is very low. While the risk of an ABS Field Officer mis-classifying the Dwelling Location of a dwelling is low, certain types of Dwelling Location were given particular attention during processing. This resulted in the identification and amendment of a small number of dwellings that had been mis-classified in the field. In rare cases, an establishment may fall into more than one category of dwelling location, such as a retirement village that contains manufactured homes, or a residential park that is made up of a mixture of caravans and manufactured homes; however, a dwelling can only be allocated to a single category. In these cases a determination was made during Census processing of the most appropriate category for the dwellings in question.

In 2011, Field Officers were permitted to select multiple dwelling location types when a distinct option was not appropriate. During processing, a set precedence order was applied to choose the final category. In 2016, Field Officers were only permitted to select one dwelling location type but with an option to provide further comments/ details if uncertainty exists. These comments were reviewed and altered if required based on a precedence order identical to 2011. This change in procedure is unlikely to affect the time series of this variable data.

Further information

A definition of Dwelling Location is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

DWTD Dwelling Type

Dwelling Type (DWTD)

Dwelling Type distinguishes between occupied and unoccupied private dwellings, and other types of dwellings such as non-private dwellings and those in Migratory, Off-shore and Shipping areas.This variable is applicable to all dwellings in scope of the Census. Unoccupied dwellings in caravan/residential parks, camping grounds, marinas and manufactured home estates are not in scope of the Census, with the exception of unoccupied residences of managers/caretakers of such establishments.

How this variable is created

Dwelling Type was determined by ABS Field Officers and was collected either prior to or during the Census collection period. It may also have been updated during the Census collection phase. Where contact was not made with a dwelling and no Census form was completed for the household online, provision was made for the householder to notify the ABS if their dwelling was unoccupied on Census Night. Where no other information was received the dwelling was treated as occupied.

Determining whether a private dwelling is occupied or unoccupied was a mandatory question during collection for the ABS Field Officer during the approach phase in mail out areas, and during visit phase for all non-responding dwellings in the 2016 Census. The ABS Field Officers were provided with a list of occupancy determination reasons to choose from, and depending on the category chosen and the period of collection the field officer was in (either approach or visit), the final dwelling occupancy could be made with no further follow up required. If an ABS Field Officer was undecided on the occupancy of the dwelling, they were able to select 'looks occupied' or 'looks unoccupied', and they then provided a mandatory comment on why they chose either of these outcomes. These comments then assisted processing to determine the final occupancy status.

Variable history

This question has been asked in every Census. Since 2006 this variable has been collected by ABS Field Officers rather than as part of the Census Household Form. From 2006 onwards dwellings such as off-shore rigs and drilling platforms off Northern Australia have been enumerated and processed in the Western Australia Off-shore category. Since the 2006 Census unoccupied dwellings in retirement villages (self-contained) have been coded to unoccupied private dwelling. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

There is no non-response for the Dwelling Type data item as it is determined and recorded by the ABS.

Data usage notes

In some cases, it can be difficult to determine whether dwellings are private (PDs) or non-private (NPDs). For example, blocks of self contained apartments or units may provide a mix of short term hotel-style accommodation (i.e. an NPD) or long term apartment (normally PDs) accommodation. Similarly, establishments providing accommodation for the retired or aged may provide self contained accommodation (PDs), accommodation with communal facilities (a feature of NPDs), or both. In addition, certain types of dwellings such as group homes for the disabled or convents/monasteries (nominally non-private dwellings) may not be easily identifiable as such and may therefore be treated as private dwellings. In some cases Census Field Officers may have had difficulty distinguishing between unoccupied dwellings and other locations which are not considered dwellings for the census such as non-residential premises and construction sites. After the 2016 enumeration period additional work was conducted to identify and correct instances of incorrect Dwelling Type classifications.

Further information

A definition of Dwelling Type is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

HCFMD Family Household Composition (Dwelling)

Family Household Composition (Dwelling) (HCFMD)

This variable counts the types of families within family households at the dwelling level. Family Household Composition is applicable to all occupied private dwellings.

How this variable is created

This variable uses information collected from responses to the Relationship in Household and the Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below. During the processing of Census data, family and household structures are identified and created based around a 'family or household reference person', this is usually 'Person 1' on the Census Household Form This item is then derived from the Family Composition and Household Composition variables.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 2011. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Family Household Composition (Dwelling) does not have a

non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Family Household Composition (Dwelling) should be used carefully when comparing to other dwelling data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. Relevant definitions can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition of Family Household Composition (Dwelling) is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For further information on the variable Family Household Composition (Dwelling) see the data quality statements for Household Composition and Family Composition.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HHCD Household Composition

Household Composition (HHCD)

Household Composition describes the type of household within a dwelling. It also indicates whether or not a family is present on Census night and whether or not other unrelated household members are present. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

In the 2016 Census, data on the household composition of private dwellings is mainly derived from the Relationship in Household question on the Census Household Form, which asks about each person's relationship to 'Person 1' on the form. An image of this question is provided below.

During the processing of Census data, families and household types are identified and created based around a 'family or household reference person', and Household Composition is derived for each dwelling. In cases where some members of a household, members of the main family structure (parents or children) or unrelated persons, are temporarily absent on Census night they are taken into consideration when deriving Household Composition. This allows for the identification of some family types, and also for distinguishing between lone person and group households.

The 'Other not classifiable' category consists mainly of occupied dwellings where a form was not received, this represents 4.8% of all occupied private dwellings.

Variable history

The specific Household Composition classification was first used in the 2006 Census. Between 1986 and 2001 some information had been collected through the variable Household Type. Other information on families was also collected prior to 1986, though the older variables did not contain as much detail as what is now collected. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Household Composition does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

For many households, identifying relationships to assist the coding of family or household structures for a dwelling is quite straightforward. However, across the community, a wide variety of living arrangements exists and family structures can be complex and dynamic in nature. The quality of family data in the Census is partly dependent on people's ability to describe these relationships within the constraints of the generalised questionnaire format required by a Census. Reporting relationships in respect of 'Person 1' only, can make it difficult to establish all the relationships which exist in a household, or to identify whether more than one family is living in the dwelling.

Household Composition should be used carefully when comparing to other dwelling data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. Relevant definitions can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition of Household Composition is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 5 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HIDD Household Income Derivation Indicator

Household Income Derivation Indicator (HIDD)

This variable identifies households where people were temporarily absent, did not state their income, or stated a negative income. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Household Income Derivation Indicator is a dwelling variable derived from the variables Household Composition and Total Personal Income. It also uses the Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Dwelling and the Count of Persons/Dependent Children Temporarily Absent from Family variables to identify households with members aged 15 and over temporarily absent on Census night. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

This variable was first used in the 1991 Census. No changes were made in 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Household Income Derivation Indicator does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Household Income Derivation Indicator can also be used to remove these households from the population of a table, or to estimate the impact on total household income caused by negative/no income or persons temporarily absent.

Household Income Derivation Indicator is used in conjunction with Total Personal Income (weekly) to create a new household income variable.

Further information

A definition of Household Income Derivation Indicator is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information see the data quality statements for Household Composition and Total Personal Income (weekly).

Household form question image

Questions 33 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

33 What is the *total* of all income the person *usually* receives?	$3,000 or more per week / $156,000 or more per year	$3,000 or more per week / $156,000 or more per year
• Mark **one** box only.	$2,000 - $2,999 per week / $104,000 - $155,999 per year	$2,000 - $2,999 per week / $104,000 - $155,999 per year
• Do *not* deduct: tax, superannuation contributions, amounts salary sacrificed, or any other automatic deductions.	$1,750 - $1,999 per week / $91,000 - $103,999 per year	$1,750 - $1,999 per week / $91,000 - $103,999 per year
• Include:	$1,500 - $1,749 per week / $78,000 - $90,999 per year	$1,500 - $1,749 per week / $78,000 - $90,999 per year

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HIED Equivalised Total Household Income (weekly)

Equivalised Total Household Income (HIED)

Equivalised Total Household Income is total household income adjusted by the application of an equivalence scale to facilitate comparison of income levels between households of differing size and composition. The 'modified OECD' equivalence scale is used.This variable is applicable to Family, Lone Person and Group Households.

How this variable is created

This variable is created by summing the personal incomes reported by all household members aged 15 years and over and applying a weighting according to the 'modified OECD' equivalence scale. The equivalence factor is built up by allocating points to each person in a household (1 point to the first adult, 0.5 points to each additional person who is 15 years and over, and 0.3 to each child under the age of 15) and then summing the equivalence points of all household members.

As personal income is collected in ranges, median values are assigned to each range using data from the Survey of Income and Housing. For more information about this survey see the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide.

Households where all or at least one member aged 15 and over did not state an income are set to 'All incomes not stated' and 'Partial income stated' respectively. Households where at least one member aged 15 and over was temporarily absent on Census night are also set to 'Partial incomes stated'. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

This variable was first used in 2006, though other measures of household income had been used in previous censuses. For 2016 the categories for annual income dollar ranges have been revised.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Equivalised Total Household Income does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Equivalised Total Household Income can be viewed as an indicator of the economic resources available to a standardised household. For a lone person household it is equal to household income. For a household comprising more than one person, it is an indicator of the household income that would be needed by a lone person household to enjoy the same level of economic well-being.

Further information

A definition of Equivalised Total Household Income is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 33 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HINASD Total Household Income as Stated (weekly)

Total Household Income as Stated (weekly) (HINASD)

This variable provides the total weekly income of a private household based on the reported personal incomes of all members that are aged 15 years or older. It includes households where only partial income details have been stated. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Total Household Income as Stated (weekly) is the sum of Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) of each resident present in the household on Census night. As personal income is collected in ranges, median values are assigned to each range using data from the Survey of Income and Housing. For more information about this survey see the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide.

The income ranges for Total Household Income as Stated (weekly) include households where one or more household members aged 15 years and over did not state their income, or were temporarily absent. In the variable Total Household Income (weekly) (HIND), these households would be excluded from the household income calculation and be coded to the (HIND) category 'Partial income stated'. Where no member of a household aged 15 years and over has stated their income, the household is classified as 'All incomes not stated'. An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

This variable was first used in 2006, though other measures of household income had been used in previous censuses. For 2016 the categories for annual income dollar ranges have been revised.

Data usage notes

In most cases, the income of visitors to a household is excluded from Total Household Income as Stated. The exception to this is households that comprise only visitors. Total Household Income as Stated is calculated for these households in order to collect data on household income in tourist areas.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Total Household Income as stated does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Further information

A definition of Total Household Income as Stated is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Questions 33 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HIND Total Household Income (weekly)

Total Household Income (weekly) (HIND)

This variable is the sum of Total Personal Income (weekly) of each resident aged 15 years or older who was present in the household on Census night. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

This variable is calculated by summing the personal incomes reported by all household members aged 15 years and over. The Census collects personal income in ranges, so before these can be summed a specific dollar amount needs to be allocated to each person. Median incomes for each range, derived using data from the Survey of Income and Housing, are used for this purpose. For more information about this survey see the Survey of Income and Housing, User Guide.

Household income is not calculated where a household member aged 15 years and over did not state their income, or was temporarily absent. These households are coded to the 'Partial income stated' category. If there is a need to recalculate this variable under different circumstances, the derived variable Household Income Derivation Indicator (HIDD) can be used in conjunction with Total Personal Income (weekly) to create a new household income variable.

In most cases, the income of visitors to a household is excluded from Total Household Income (weekly). The exception to this is households that comprise only visitors. Total Household Income (weekly) is calculated for these households in order to collect data on household income in tourist areas.

An image of this question is provided below.

Variable history

A variable relating to household income was first used during the 1976 census. The categories for annual income dollar ranges have been revised for the 2016 Census.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Total Household Income (weekly) does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Total Household Income (weekly) and Total Family Income (weekly) are the standard Census multiple income classifications, and are designed to satisfy a broad range of Census requirements. If there is a need to recalculate this variable under different circumstances users can use the derived variable Household Income Derivation Indicator in conjunction with Total Personal Income (weekly) to create a new household income variable.

Further information

A definition of Total Household Income (weekly) is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Question 33 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

33 What is the *total* of all income the person *usually* receives?		
• Mark **one** box only.	☐ $3,000 or more per week $156,000 or more per year	☐ $3,000 or more per week $156,000 or more per year
• Do *not* deduct: tax, superannuation contributions, amounts salary sacrificed, or any other automatic deductions.	☐ $2,000 - $2,999 per week $104,000 - $155,999 per year	☐ $2,000 - $2,999 per week $104,000 - $155,999 per year
• Include:	☐ $1,750 - $1,999 per week $91,000 - $103,999 per year	☐ $1,750 - $1,999 per week $91,000 - $103,999 per year
Wages and salaries - Regular overtime - Commissions and bonuses	☐ $1,500 - $1,749 per week $78,000 - $90,999 per year	☐ $1,500 - $1,749 per week $78,000 - $90,999 per year
Government pensions, benefits and allowances	☐ $1,250 - $1,499 per week $65,000 - $77,999 per year	☐ $1,250 - $1,499 per week $65,000 - $77,999 per year
- Age pension - Youth and student - Family tax benefit allowances - Parenting payment - Carer allowance	☐ $1,000 - $1,249 per week $52,000 - $64,999 per year	☐ $1,000 - $1,249 per week $52,000 - $64,999 per year
- Disability support pension - Any other government - Newstart allowance pension/allowance	☐ $800 - $999 per week $41,600 - $51,999 per year	☐ $800 - $999 per week $41,600 - $51,999 per year
Profit or loss from - Unincorporated business/farm (e.g. sole traders, partnerships)	☐ $650 - $799 per week $33,800 - $41,599 per year	☐ $650 - $799 per week $33,800 - $41,599 per year
- Rental properties	☐ $500 - $649 per week $26,000 - $33,799 per year	☐ $500 - $649 per week $26,000 - $33,799 per year
Other income - Income from - Interest	☐ $400 - $499 per week $20,800 - $25,999 per year	☐ $400 - $499 per week $20,800 - $25,999 per year
superannuation - Dividends from shares - Private pensions - Workers' compensation	☐ $300 - $399 per week $15,600 - $20,799 per year	☐ $300 - $399 per week $15,600 - $20,799 per year
- Child support - Any other income	☐ $150 - $299 per week $7,800 - $15,599 per year	☐ $150 - $299 per week $7,800 - $15,599 per year
• Information from this question provides an indication of living standards in different areas.	☐ $1 - $149 per week $1 - $7,799 per year	☐ $1 - $149 per week $1 - $7,799 per year
ⓘ Go to **census.abs.gov.au** for more information.	☐ Nil income	☐ Nil income
	☐ Negative income	☐ Negative income

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

HOSD Household Suitability

Housing Suitability (HOSD)

This variable is new to 2016 and is a measure of housing utilisation based on a comparison of the number of bedrooms in a dwelling with a series of household demographics, such as the number of usual residents, their relationship to each other, age and sex. The criteria are based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard (CNOS). This variable can be used to identify if a dwelling is either under or over utilised. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Housing Suitability is a dwelling variable that is derived from responses to the Number of Bedrooms in a Dwelling, Relationship in the Household, Sex and Age questions for persons who are usually resident. Images of questions used to derive the Housing Suitability variable are provided below.

The criteria used to derive the variable are based on the Canadian National Occupancy Standard for housing appropriateness and are sensitive to both household size and composition. The measure assesses the bedroom requirements of a household by specifying that:

- there should be no more than two persons per bedroom
- children less than five years of age of different sexes may reasonably share a bedroom
- children less than 18 years of age and of the same sex may reasonably share a bedroom
- single household members 18 years and over should have a separate bedroom, as should parents or couples and
- a lone person household may reasonably occupy a bed sitter.

The Housing Suitability variable compares the number of bedrooms required with the actual number of bedrooms in the dwelling. It can be used to analyse the under or over utilisation of dwellings and the dwelling's suitability for the resident household.

Variable history

This is a new item for 2016, however Housing Suitability data has been available in previous censuses through customised data requests.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Housing Suitability does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

There is no single standard measure for housing suitability. However, Canadian National Occupancy Standard is widely used in Australia and internationally.

Further Information

A definition of Housing Suitability, see the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information related to Housing Suitability see data quality statements for Number of Bedrooms in Private Dwelling and Relationship in Household.

Household form question image

Questions 3, 4, 5, and 55 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

3 Is the person male or female?		
• Mark one box for each person, like this: ▬	☐ Male	
	☐ Female	

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

IFNMFD Imputation Flag for Number of Males and Females in Dwelling

Imputation Flag for Number of Males and Females in Dwelling (IFNMFD)

This variable indicates dwellings for which no form has been received and where all persons required all demographic characteristics (age, registered marital status and place of usual residence) to be imputed and other variables to be set to 'Not stated' or 'Not applicable' as appropriate. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings.

How this variable is created

Most occupied private dwellings (95.1%) return a completed form so the number of persons, by sex, is known. The number of males and females was imputed for the remaining 4.9% of occupied private dwellings and this variable identifies these dwellings.

Imputation Flag for Number of Males and Females in Dwelling variable categories are shown below.

> **1** Persons not imputed into dwelling
> **2** Persons imputed into dwelling
> **@** Not applicable

More information about imputation can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Variable history

This variable was first used in the 2006 Census. The categories for this item were changed for 2016 due to the changes in dwelling enumeration.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. This imputation flag does not have a non-response rate as it is used to indicate whether the number of males and females were imputed during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

In previous Censuses field officers would collect information on number of males and females in residence during their visits to the dwelling. This information would be recorded in their collector record books and could be used instead of imputation in the event that there was no response from the dwelling. This information was not collected during the 2016 census and if a dwelling did not respond the only option was to impute the number of males and females based on similar dwellings. This flag is set during census processing.

Further information

A definition of Imputation Flag for Number of Males and Females is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

INGDWTD Indigenous Household Indicator

Indigenous Household Indicator (INGDWTD)

This variable indicates households who have at least one person who identified as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander who is usually resident at that dwelling and was present on Census night. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Indigenous Household Indicator is created from responses to the question asking if a person is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin. All persons in a dwelling are used to determine the Indigenous Household Indicator classification.

Variable history

This variable was first used in 2011, though during previous censuses some information about households containing Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents was collected. For 2016 there were some minor changes made to the wording of categories.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Indigenous Household Indicator does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Changes between Censuses can affect the interpretation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples data. It is important to remember that this variable is collected through self-identification and any change in identification will affect the count of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

Further information

A definition of Indigenous Household Indicator is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For more information see the data quality statement for Indigenous Status.

Household form question image

Question 7 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

LLDD Landlord Type

Landlord Type (LLDD)

This variable provides information on Landlord Type for rented dwellings, such as real estate agent or government housing authority. It is applicable to occupied private dwellings being rented, including those being occupied rent free. This represents 29.4% of all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Landlord Type is a dwelling variable that is created based on responses from the Tenure Type and Landlord Type questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below.

Only one response can be given for this item. If respondents provide more than one response to this question in error, the top-most response is used.

Variable history

The question about landlord type was first asked in the 1954 Census and has been included in every subsequent Census. At that time, if the landlord was a Government Authority, respondents were instructed to describe themselves as 'tenant'. In the 1961 Census, if the landlord was a State Housing Authority, respondents were again instructed to write 'tenant'. In 1966, tenants of the State Housing Authority could choose between marking the relevant State Housing Authority or the category Other landlord.

In 1971, the response categories increased to three: State Housing Authority; Employer; and Other landlord. The number of response categories continued to increase from three (from 1971 until 1991) to seven (in 1996 and 2001) and then to eight for subsequent Censuses. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for Landlord Type was 1.8% in 2016 (2.3% in 2011).

Further information

A definition for Landlord Type is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Questions 56 and 57 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

MRED Mortgage Repayments (monthly)

Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values (MRED and MRERD)

These variables record the mortgage repayments being paid by a household to purchase the dwelling in which they were enumerated on Census night (also applicable to caravans). This data item is applicable to occupied private dwellings being purchased, which represents 32.4% of all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Data for this variable is derived from the Tenure Type and Housing Costs questions. Images of these questions are provided below. Household repayments data is automatically captured from numeric text responses.

Variable history

The question relating to Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values was first asked for the 1976 Census, though in some previous years this variable has been referred to as 'Housing Loan Repayments (monthly)'.
Since 2011, Nil repayments is recorded as $0 in Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values and as a separate category called 'Nil repayments' in Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Ranges. Prior to 2011 a response of nil was coded as 'Not Stated'.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 4.2% (5.3% in 2011).

Data usage notes

Processing Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values is subject to some recognition error, particularly when responses incorrectly include cents and the decimal point is missing or unclear. All responses ending in '00' were checked for recognition error, as were other unlikely values. Some high or low values when combined with income may form unlikely combinations. While the data is subject to normal sample checks to ensure an acceptable level of quality, numeric responses are accepted as reported by the respondents on the form.

Further information

A definition of Mortgage Repayments (monthly) Dollar Values is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary with additional information available in the Glossary.

Ranged data is available from the variable Mortgage Repayments (monthly) ranges.

Household form question image

Questions 56 and 58 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

MV1D Household One Year Mobility Indicator

Household One Year Mobility Indicator (MV1D)

This variable indicates if all, some, or none of the residents of a household have changed address in the previous year. Persons temporarily absent and visitors are excluded. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings, excluding those that were determined to be 'Visitor only' or 'Other non-classifiable' households.

How this variable is created

This variable is derived from the questions asking for a person's place of usual residence on Census night and one year ago. From this data it is possible to identify the change of address of people and show the movement of households for one year prior to the Census date. The dwelling can then be coded as having all, some, or no residents in the household having a different address one year ago. Images of the questions are provided below.

Variable history

This variable on household mobility was first used for the 1991 Census. However, data about the change of addresses for individual persons - from which this variable is derived - has been collected since the 1976 Census. The reference year, and one year ago date, were updated for the 2016 Census.

Non-response rate

The majority of item non-response is attributable to households which did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when households return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many households did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The non-response rate for this variable was 6.2% in 2016 (1.9 % in 2011). For this variable, the 'non-response' includes households in which one or more residents did not state their usual residence one year ago.

Further information

A definition of Household One Year Mobility Indicator is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary (cat. no. 2901.0).

For more information related to Household One Year Mobility Indicator, see data quality statements for Usual Address Indicator Census Night and Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator.

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) was used for the 2016 Census. Provision was also made for persons who indicated that they had no usual place of residence one year ago.

Household form question image

Questions 8 and 9 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

MV5D Household Five Year Mobility Indicator

Household Five Year Mobility Indicator (MV5D)

This variable indicates if all, some, or none of the residents of a household have changed address in the previous five years. Persons temporarily absent and visitors are excluded.

This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings, excluding those that were determined to be 'Visitor only' or 'Other non-classifiable' households.

How this variable is created

This variable is derived from questions asking for a person's place of usual residence on Census night, one year ago and five years ago. From this data it is possible to identify the change of address of people and show the movement of households for five years prior to the Census date. The dwelling can then be coded as having all, some, or no residents in the household having a different address five years ago. Images of the questions used to derive this variable are provided below.

Variable history

A variable on household mobility was first used for the 1991 Census. This question relating to Place of Usual Residence Five Years Ago was first asked in the 1971 Census and has been asked at every Census since then. Geographic classifications have been changed for the 2016 Census so that they match the updated ASGS. The date listed for five years ago has also been updated.

Non-response rate

The majority of item non-response is attributable to households which did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when households return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many households did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The non-response rate for this variable was 2.9% in 2016 (2.9% in 2011). For this variable, the 'non-response' includes households in which one or more residents did not state their usual residence one year ago.

Further information

For more information see the data quality statements for Usual Address Indicator Census Night, Usual Address One Year Ago Indicator and Usual Address Five Years Ago Indicator.

Household form question image

Questions as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form

8 Where does the person usually live?

- For persons who usually live in another country and who are visiting Australia for less than one year, mark 'Other country'.
- For other persons, 'usually live' means the address at which the person has lived, or intends to live, for a total of six months or more in 2016.
- For persons who have no usual address, write 'NONE' in the 'Suburb/Locality' box.
- For boarders at boarding school, write the address of the boarding school or college.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

Same as in Question 1
Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address)
Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any)
Street number
Street name
Suburb/Locality
State/Territory   Postcode
Other country

9 Where did the person usually live one year ago (at 9 August 2015)?

- If the person is less than one year old, leave blank.
- For persons who had no usual address on 9 August 2015, write the address at which they were then living.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

Same as in Question 8
Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address)
Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any)
Street number
Street name
Suburb/Locality
State/Territory   Postcode
Other country

10 Where did the person usually live five years ago (at 9 August 2011)?

- If the person is less than five years old, leave blank.
- For persons who had no usual address on 9 August 2011, write the address at which they were then living.
- Remember to mark the box like this: ▬

Same as in Question 8
Same as in Question 9
Elsewhere in Australia (please specify address)
Apartment/Flat/Unit number (if any)
Street number
Street name
Suburb/Locality
State/Territory   Postcode
Other country

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

NEDD Dwelling Internet Connection

Dwelling Internet Connection (NEDD)

This variable records whether any member of the household accesses the internet from the dwelling. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is coded

Dwelling internet connection data is captured automatically from a mark box on the form so the risk of processing error is minimal. In a small proportion of cases (testing has indicated that this is less than 0.9%), respondents provided an incorrect number of responses (respondents are asked to mark one response). In these cases the first box marked in the order they appear on the form is accepted and the subsequent responses are rejected.

Variable history

Data on internet and computer use by individuals was collected for the first time in the 2001 Census. In 2006 and 2011, a question on dwelling internet connection asked whether private dwellings had an internet connection and about the type of connection (i.e. broadband, dial-up or other) was used at each dwelling. The 2016 question asks whether private dwellings have any people who access the internet from the dwelling, without details of the type of connection.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many questions were not responded to as a proportion of the total number of questions applicable to the dwelling. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the households who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 7.6%, (7.0% in 2011).

Data usage notes

Data gained from this question provides information about the number and characteristics of people who lack access to the internet and may therefore be in danger of social exclusion. The data gained from this question can be used with other data to allow the fine level of disaggregation required by users.

Further information

A definition of Dwelling internet connection is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
Additional sources of information regarding internet usage can be found in Internet Activity, Australia, December 2016. This contains details of internet activity supplied by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) with more than 1,000 active subscribers.

Household form question image

Question 59 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

NPDD Type of Non-Private Dwelling

Type of Non-Private Dwelling (NPDD)

This variable records the type of non-private dwelling in which persons were counted on census night. Non-private dwellings are establishments which provide a communal or transitory type of accommodation, such as hotels, nursing homes, corrective institutions, boarding schools, staff quarters and hospitals.This variable is applicable to all occupied non-private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census. Unoccupied non-private dwellings are not counted in the Census.

How this variable is created

Non-private dwelling type was collected by address canvassers in mail-out areas, subsequently reviewed by Census enumeration management staff prior to enumeration and then verified by Census Field Officers during the enumeration period. In areas enumerated using the traditional approach of delivering forms, the information was collected by ABS Field Officers during the Census collection period.

Variable history

Information on the types of non-private dwellings that people are located in on Census night has been collected in every census since 1911. The specific categories used to classify non-private dwellings have changed between censuses. In the 2006 Census, additional response options were introduced to identify immigration detention centres, youth/backpacker hostels and ski lodges. These options were retained in the 2011 Census and were included in the 2016 Census.

The output categories for this classification were unchanged for 2016.

Non-response rate

Type of non-private dwelling does not have a non-response rate as all dwellings are allocated a type either prior to Census enumeration, while enumeration is ongoing, or during processing.

Data usage notes

As well as being increasingly difficult to determine whether some dwellings are private or non-private, it is also becoming increasingly difficult to determine the Type of Non-Private Dwelling. The type and mix of accommodation being offered and how it is described/advertised can make it difficult to categorise using the existing Type of Non-Private Dwelling classification. During Census processing, additional checks were undertaken to confirm that the classification has been consistently and correctly applied.

The following comments may assist in understanding dwelling counts for some categories, particularly when comparing with 2011 data:

- Hotels, motels, bed and breakfast: there has been a large increase in this category that encompasses a wide range of mainly short term accommodation for purposes other than health or welfare. Targeted investigations were conducted during processing to identify hotel accommodation (serviced apartments) situated within apartment buildings that contained both privately owned apartments and hotel accommodation. Amendments were also made as warranted, where complexes comprised entirely of holiday units were incorrectly categorised as private dwellings.
- Staff quarters: there has also been a large movement in numbers, partly reflecting the changes in the resources sector. Investigations during processing targeted areas of large change and mining camps, with amendments made as warranted.
- Residential colleges, halls of residence: Some of these may have been enumerated as private dwellings (apartments). Targeted investigations were conducted during processing to identify student accommodation, particularly when situated within apartment buildings that contained both student accommodation and privately owned apartments, or where there was no clear indication of the association with an education institution.
- Hospitals: the count of other related non-private dwelling types may have been impacted by the emergence of multipurpose establishments or sites, including a hospital, and mental health and other services. Depending on how Field Staff interpret these situations, this can lead to differences in how these establishments are classified from one Census to another. In addition, this may result in a hospital establishment being identified as one NPD in one Census and multiple NPDs in another.
- Hostels for the Disabled: there is sometimes difficulty in distinguishing these from other types of non-private dwellings or private dwellings.
- Nursing homes and Accommodation for the retired or aged (not self-contained): accommodation is usually offered for both low and high level care and it is difficult to separately identify. This partly accounts for the changes observed in numbers of both categories. Users should consider combining the two categories when using Census data.
- Other welfare institution: this can include hard to define accommodation for welfare purposes, and also includes a growing number of 'group homes'.
- Other and not-classifiable: notwithstanding the increased difficulty in categorising non-private dwellings, there was an increased effort in 2016 in determining a more correct code for those otherwise left as 'Other'. Ski lodges and Backpacker accommodation is included in the 'Other' category.

Further Information

A definition of Non-Private Dwellings is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

NPRD Number of Persons Usually Resident in Dwelling

Number of Persons Usually Resident in Dwelling (NPRD)

This variable counts the number of persons usually resident in an occupied private dwelling. It includes up to three residents who were temporarily absent from the household on Census night. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings.

How this variable is created

This variable combines the variables for Relationship in Household and Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Household to determine the number of persons usually resident in an occupied private dwelling. These counts are then combined to determine a total number of usual residents. Images of the questions used to derive this variable are provided below.

Variable history

This variable was first used during the 2011 Census. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Number of Persons Usually Resident in a Dwelling does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

For many households, identifying relationships to assist the coding of family or household structures for a dwelling is quite straightforward. However, across the community, a wide variety of living arrangements exists and family structures can be complex and dynamic in nature. The quality of family data in the Census is partly dependent on people's ability to describe these relationships within the constraints of the generalised questionnaire format required by a Census. Reporting relationships in respect of Person 1 only, can make it difficult to establish all the relationships which exist in a household, or to identify whether more than one family is living in the dwelling.

This classification is used to calculate the average number of persons per bedroom in the QuickStats and Community Profiles products. There has been a change in methodology used to calculate the average number of persons per bedroom between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses. More information on this can change can be found in this publication on the Comparing the average number of persons per bedroom over time page.

Further information

A definition of Number of Persons Usually Resident in Dwelling is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Questions 5 and 53 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

RNTD Rent (weekly)

Rent (weekly) Dollar Values (RNTD, RNTRD)

This variable records the amount of rent paid by a household on a weekly basis for the dwelling in which they were enumerated on Census night. This data item is applicable to occupied private dwellings being rented (including those being occupied rent free). This represents 29.4% of all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Data for this variable is derived using data collection from the Tenure Type and Household Payments questions on the Census Household Form. Images of the questions are provided below.

Household payments data is automatically captured from numeric text responses. If rental payment responses are reported as a fortnightly or monthly figure they are derived to a weekly figure. Responses to the tenure type question are used to determine whether payments are recorded as rent or loan repayments.

Variable history

Information on how much rent is paid for a specific private dwelling has been collected for all censuses since 1911.

Since the 1996 Census, the actual dollar amount paid for a dwelling has been collected rather than range data. This is due to the emergence of shared equity, rent-buy schemes and a strong user demand.

For the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, the order of questions was changed to position the tenure type question before the mortgage repayments/rent and landlord type questions. Sequencing from the tenure type question directs respondents who indicate that they own their own home past these questions. This ordering has been retained for the 2016 Census.

The categories for the dollar ranges have been revised for the 2016 Census. Some codes have also been amended.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many questions were not responded to as a proportion of the total number of questions applicable to the dwelling. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the households who did not respond to the Census at all. Refer to item non-response rates for more information. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 3.4% (3.8% in 2011).

Data usage notes

This process is subject to some recognition error, particularly when responses incorrectly include cents and the decimal point is missing or unclear. All responses ending in '00' were checked for recognition error, as were other unlikely dollar values. While the data is subject to normal sample checks to ensure an acceptable level of quality, numeric responses are accepted as reported by respondents on the form.

Further information

A definition of Rent is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Questions 56 and 58 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

SAFD Supported Accommodation Flag

Supported Accommodation Flag (SAFD)

This variable flag applies to dwellings that provide supported accommodation for persons without a permanent residence. This data is available by request only.

How this variable is created

Lists of residential addresses were supplied to the ABS by state and territory bodies to assist with the identification of supported accommodation.

The Supported Accommodation Flag is applied during Census processing based on dwelling address information provided by the relevant service providers and state/territory bodies. Some additional dwellings may also have been identified during the Census processing and collection phases.

Dwellings identified as supported accommodation were matched to corresponding Census dwelling records to verify their address and only those that can be matched are included in the final counts.

Variable history

This variable was first used during the 2011 Census. No changes were made for 2016.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. The Supported Accommodation Flag does not have a non-response rate. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Some 'Supported Accommodation' dwellings have been classified in the Census as Non-Private Dwellings, such as Boarding House/Private Hotel, and Hostels for the Homeless, etc. This data can be obtained by adding both the Supported Accommodation Flag and Type of Non-Private Dwelling variables to a table.

Further information

A definition of the Supported Accommodation Flag is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

STRD Dwelling Structure

Structure of Dwelling (STRD)

This variable classifies the structure of private dwellings. This variable is applicable to all private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Up to and including the 2011 Census, information on dwelling structure was collected by Census Field Officers in the Collector Record Book at the time the Census forms were delivered. For the 2016 Census, data on this topic for mail-out areas (see How we collected your information) was collected during field work by ABS Address Canvassing Officers in the lead-up to the Census, as part of establishing the Address Register as a mail-out frame for designated areas. In areas enumerated using the traditional (non mail-out) approach, the topic was collected for each dwelling by ABS Field Officers when delivering forms. Structure of Dwelling data for non-responding dwellings in mail-out areas was updated as required by ABS Field Officers during the 2016 Census enumeration period.

Certain types of dwelling structure, such as 'Improvised homes, tent, sleepers out' were given particular attention during processing. This resulted in identification and amendment of a small number of dwellings that had been mis-classified.

Variable history

Some information on the structure of private dwellings has been collected for all censuses since 1911, though the specific types of classification used have varied significantly between censuses. Since 1976 this variable has been collected by Census Field Officers instead of being identified by respondents on the Census Household Form.

For the 2016 Census, there was a change to one of the response categories for this variable. The previous category of 'Caravan, cabin or houseboat' has been separated into two categories: 'Caravan' and 'Cabin, houseboat'.

Non-response rate

The non-response rate for Structure of Dwelling was 0.5% (0.1% 2011).

Non-response for this variable was largely caused by previously unidentified dwellings being added to the census frame when a member of the public contacted the Census Inquiry Service, and through late GNAF (Geospatial National Address File) updates to the Address Register which did not include dwelling structure information. The Census Inquiry Service did not record dwelling structure and therefore it was left as a *not stated* response. Similarly if a dwelling was added through the GNAF update, and was not visited by a Census Field Officer, then dwelling structure was not recorded. Prior to processing, a separate desktop canvassing exercise was undertaken to assign a dwelling structure code to the late GNAF updates and CIS created dwellings, resulting in a number of amends being applied.

All dwellings with no dwelling structure coded went through an imputation process during processing to try and assign a structure code based on surrounding dwellings. Where a structure was unable to be assigned dwelling structure remained *not stated*. This is similar to the imputation process applied for the 2011 Census.

Data usage notes

Due to the change in the way dwelling structure data was collected in 2016 for mail-out areas (the majority of dwellings in Australia), caution should be applied when comparing to previous Census collection cycles.

Minor inconsistences in dwelling structure counts may also exist between Censuses due to subjective interpretation of structural definitions between individual Field Officers.

While there were no classification or definition changes to dwelling structure, the change in procedures for collecting this information has resulted in differences between 2011 and 2016 data for mail out areas. This is particularly noticeable in the separate house, semi-detached, row or terrace house, townhouse etc categories, as well as flat or apartment in a one or two storey block.

Flats attached to houses are at a high risk of being missed in canvassing as they are hard to identify – this is also the case for flats above shops.

Dwelling structure was predominantly set by address canvassers in mail out areas, but Census field officers were also able to update the dwelling structure during the enumeration period for non-responding dwellings. This may have resulted in different structure codes being set within the same complexes.

Other items collected by the Address Canvassing process include: Dwelling location, Type of Non-Private Dwelling, and Dwelling type. These variables had further verification by Field Officers, so the impact on time series is minimal.

Dwelling structure proportions for selected categories - 2006 - 2016
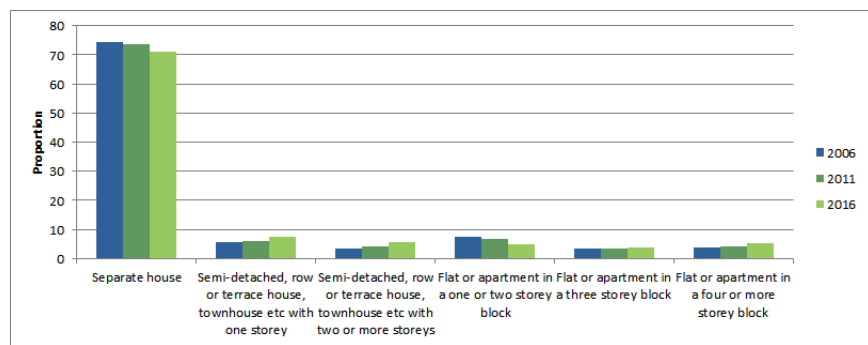
Further information

More information on Structure of Dwelling is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

TEND Tenure Type

Tenure Type (TEND)

This variable describes if a dwelling is owned, being purchased or rented by a household, or being occupied under another arrangement. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Tenure Type is mainly derived from responses to the Tenure Type and Landlord Type questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below. Most of the data is captured automatically from Tenure Type which asks if the dwelling is owned, being purchased or being rented, with a small proportion of the data derived from responses to the Landlord Type question. Images of the questions are provided below.

In a small proportion of cases (testing has indicated that this is around 1.3%), respondents provide an incorrect number of responses on the Household Paper form (for Tenure Type respondents are asked to only mark one response). In these cases responses were accepted in the order they appeared on the form and the extra responses were rejected.

Variable history

The question relating to Tenure Type was first asked for the 1911 Census. From 1976 to 1991, nature of occupancy data was derived from mortgage and rent questions. For all other Censuses a direct question on nature of occupancy was included.

Since 2006, the question on tenure type has differentiated between owners with and without a mortgage, rather than whether a dwelling was owned outright or being purchased, in order to remain consistent with the current ABS statistical standard for tenure type.

In the 2016 Census, the response category 'Being purchased under a rent/buy scheme' was changed to refer to 'Being purchased under a shared equity scheme', to better reflect current arrangements.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 7.7% (6.1% in 2011).

Data usage notes

Compared to 2011 data, large decreases in the 'Being purchased under a shared equity scheme' category for 2016 can be observed. It is unclear whether this indicates legitimate changes in the way housing has been financed or whether this was caused by respondents misinterpreting either the 2011 or 2016 wording of the question.

Further information

A definition for Tenure Type is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary with additional information available in the Glossary.

Household form question image

Questions 56 and 57 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

TENLLD Tenure and Landlord Type

Tenure and Landlord Type (TENLLD)

This variable combines Tenure Type and Landlord Type to provide more detailed information for dwellings being rented. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings.

How this variable is created

Tenure and Landlord Type is a dwelling variable that is derived from responses to the Tenure Type and Landlord Type questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below.

Variable history

This combined variable was first available for use during the 2011 Census. Prior to this, data was obtained from manually combining the Tenure Type and Landlord Type variables. This variable was unchanged for the 2016 Census.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Tenure and Landlord Type does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value created during Census processing for applicable households. For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

Dwellings occupied rent-free are classified as rented. Other Tenure Type includes dwellings being occupied under a life tenure scheme. Owned with a mortgage includes dwellings being purchased under a shared equity scheme.

Further information

A definition of Tenure and Landlord Type is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household form question image

Questions 56 and 57 as they appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form.

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

VEHD Number of Motor Vehicles

Number of Motor Vehicles (VEHD, VEHRD)

This variable records the number of registered motor vehicles owned or used by household members that were garaged or parked at or near their dwelling on Census night. This variable is applicable to all occupied private dwellings enumerated in the 2016 Census.

How this variable is created

Number of Motor Vehicles is a dwelling variable created from the Number of Motor Vehicles question on the Census Household Form. An image of this question is provided below.

Data for this variable is captured automatically from a written numeric response or by marking the 'None' mark box.

This variable includes single fields for values from 0 to 29. Values of 30 or more are grouped together. An additional variable Number of Motor Vehicles Ranged is also available and groups responses to this question differently. Responses for 1-3 motor vehicles are available singly, and responses of 4 or more motor vehicles are coded into the grouped category of 'Four or more motor vehicles'.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1966. The question has remained in all subsequent Censuses. In 2001 this question also asked for the number of motorbikes and motor scooters. Asking for motorbikes and motor scooters was removed in 2006. This variable was unchanged between 2011 and 2016.

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

The non-response rate for this variable was 8.4% in 2016 (6.5% in 2011).

Data usage notes

Dwellings with a high number of motor vehicles reported were checked manually to ensure that they match the actual response on the form. The data may include a small proportion of dwellings with unusually large numbers of vehicles, as all numeric responses are accepted as reported.

Further information

A definition for Number of Motor Vehicles is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
A definition for Number of Motor Vehicles Ranged is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Household Form Question Image

Question 54 as it appeared on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form.

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

FINF Total Family Income (weekly)

Total Family Income (Weekly) (FINF)

This variable records the sum of the Total Personal Income (weekly) of each family member aged 15 years and over present in the household on Census night. Total Personal Income (weekly) is applicable to all families where one or more members is aged 15 and over. Family income is not applicable to non-family households such as group households or lone person households; or to people in non-private dwellings.

How this variable is created

Data for this variable is derived from the Relationship in Household, Income and Persons Temporarily Absent questions on the Census Household Form. Images of these questions are provided below.

Total Family Income (Weekly) is calculated by summing the personal incomes reported by all family members aged 15 years and over. As personal income is collected in ranges, median values are assigned to each range using data from the Survey of Income and Housing.

If any person aged 15 years and over is temporarily absent, or does not state their income, then the Total Family Income (weekly) is not derived for that family.

The categories of Total Family Income (Weekly) include: 'Partial income stated' and 'All incomes not stated'. 'Partial income stated' is used when some family members (aged 15 years and over) are temporarily absent or have not stated their income. 'All incomes not stated' is used when no family member present (aged 15 years and over) has stated their income.

Variable history

This variable was first introduced in 1976 as Family Income (Annual) (FINP), though the name and mnemonics used, and methods used to calculate family income, have changed several times over the years. For the 2016 Census, categories for family income in dollar ranges have been revised**.**

Non-response rate

Item non-response rates are a measure of how many people did not respond to a particular question as a proportion of the total number of people the question was applicable to. In this instance the response is left as *not stated*.

The majority of item non-response is attributable to the people who did not respond to the Census at all. The second and smaller contributor to item non-response is when people return a Census form but may not answer a particular question(s). For more information, refer to Understanding Census data quality

The non-response rate for this variable where all persons in the family did not state an income was 1.5%, while families with partial income stated was 9.5% of families. Families where all or at least one member aged 15 years and over did not state an income are set to 'All incomes not stated' and 'Partial income stated' respectively. Families where at least one member aged 15 years and over was temporarily absent on Census Night are also set to 'Partial income stated'.

Data usage notes

If there is a need to recalculate this variable under different circumstances users can use the derived variable Family Income Derivation Indicator (FIDF) in conjunction with Total Personal Income (weekly) (INCP) to create a new family income variable.

Total Family Income (Weekly) should be used carefully when comparing to other family data from within the ABS and for external organisations or agencies. The definition of a family can differ between different statistical collections and may not match Census definitions.

Further information

A definition for Total Family Income (Weekly) is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.
For information on the Relationship in Household question and data item, see the data quality statement for Relationship in Household.
For information on family type and family composition, see the data quality statement for Family Composition.

Household form question image

Data for this variable is derived from the following questions on the Census Household Form:

- Question 5, which is used to determine person's relationship to 'Person 1'/'Person 2',
- Question 33 which is used to determine Income, and
- Question 53, which is used to determine Persons Temporarily absent.

Questions 5, 33 and 53 as they appear on the 2016 Census Household Paper Form:

33 **What is the *total* of all income the person *usually* receives?**

- Mark **one** box only.

- Do *not* deduct: tax, superannuation contributions, amounts salary sacrificed, or any other automatic deductions.
- Include:

  Wages and salaries
  - Regular overtime
  - Commissions and bonuses

  Government pensions, benefits and allowances
  - Age pension
  - Family tax benefit
  - Parenting payment
  - Disability support pension
  - Newstart allowance
  - Youth and student allowances
  - Carer allowance
  - Any other government pension/allowance

  Profit or loss from
  - Unincorporated business/farm (e.g. sole traders, partnerships)
  - Rental properties

  Other income
  - Income from superannuation
  - Private pensions
  - Child support
  - Interest
  - Dividends from shares
  - Workers' compensation
  - Any other income

- Information from this question provides an indication of living standards in different areas.

(i) Go to **census.abs.gov.au** for more information.

- [ ] $3,000 or more per week / $156,000 or more per year
- [ ] $2,000 - $2,999 per week / $104,000 - $155,999 per year
- [ ] $1,750 - $1,999 per week / $91,000 - $103,999 per year
- [ ] $1,500 - $1,749 per week / $78,000 - $90,999 per year
- [ ] $1,250 - $1,499 per week / $65,000 - $77,999 per year
- [ ] $1,000 - $1,249 per week / $52,000 - $64,999 per year
- [ ] $800 - $999 per week / $41,600 - $51,999 per year
- [ ] $650 - $799 per week / $33,800 - $41,599 per year
- [ ] $500 - $649 per week / $26,000 - $33,799 per year
- [ ] $400 - $499 per week / $20,800 - $25,999 per year
- [ ] $300 - $399 per week / $15,600 - $20,799 per year
- [ ] $150 - $299 per week / $7,800 - $15,599 per year
- [ ] $1 - $149 per week / $1 - $7,799 per year
- [ ] Nil income
- [ ] Negative income

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

	First or given name	First or given name	First or given name
Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016.	(Surname or family name)	(Surname or family name)	(Surname or family name)
Is the person male or female? • Mark one box for each person away.	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female	☐ Male ☐ Female
What is the person's date of birth or age? • If date of birth not known, please give age. Example: Day Month Year 1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8 OR 4 8 Years	Day Month Year OR Age Years	Day Month Year OR Age Years	Day Month Year OR Age Years
Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin? • For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes.	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander	☐ No ☐ Yes, Aboriginal ☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander
Is the person a full-time student?	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes	☐ No ☐ Yes
What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2? • Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER.	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)	☐ Husband or wife of Person 1 ☐ De facto partner of Person 1 ☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2 ☐ Child of Person 1 only ☐ Child of Person 2 only ☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify)

A text only version of the online Census Household form is available from the Downloads tab.

CDPP Community Development Programme Participation

Community Development Programme Participation (CDPP)

This variable indicates whether a person participated in the Community Development Programme (CDP). It is applicable to persons aged 15 years and over who were counted using the Interviewer Household Form. Interviewer Household Forms are designed specifically for use in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Care should be taken in the use of this variable. The CDP involves a broader range of activities than would be captured by the question as it was asked on the Interviewer Household Form (see form image below for further information). The question asked was aimed at identifying participation in a CDP job for the purposes of deriving labour force status, rather than measuring all CDP participation.

How this variable is created

Community Development Programme Participation is a person variable that is created based on the response to the question of whether the person had a job of any kind in the week prior to the Census on the Interviewer Household Form.

Community Development Programme Participation is derived from mark boxes to indicate the responses to question 42 on the Interviewer Household Form. An image of this question is provided below.

It is a multi-mark question and the following multi-mark rules apply. If a respondent answered they had a CDP job as well as a non-CDP job, the non-CDP job has precedence over the CDP job and they were classified as *not* a CDP participant (note that this does not relate to CDP participation rules). If there was not enough information to determine whether the respondent was a CDP participant or not, they were classified as 'not stated'. For example, if 'no, did not have job' was the only response marked.

The derivation rules for classifying a applicable person (15 years and over who responded using Interviewer Household Form) are summarised below.

Table 1.0. Categories within the Community Development Programme Participation variable and the corresponding responses from the Interviewer Household Form that contributed to this classification.

Community Development Programme Participation categories	Interviewer Household Form response to question 42
Participant in the Community Development Programme	'Yes, CDP job' only 'Yes, CDP job' and 'No, did not have a job'
Not a participant in the Community Development Programme	'Yes, job not CDP' 'Yes, job not CDP' **and/or** 'Yes, worked in own business' 'Yes, job not CDP' **and/or** 'Yes, worked in own business' **and /or** 'Yes, CDP job'
Not stated	Did not provide a response at all to the question or responded as 'No, did not have a job' but did not provide an answer to subsequent questions.
Not applicable	Persons not counted on an interviewer household form Persons aged under 15 years

Variable history

Introduced in July 2015, the Community Development Programme (CDP) is a Government initiative assisting job seekers in remote areas to gain the skills, training and capabilities needed to find sustainable employment and contribute to their communities through a range of flexible activities. The programme aims to improve the economic and social well-being of remote communities. CDP replaced the Remote Jobs and Communities Program (RJCP), which replaced the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme in July 2013. CDEP was operating during the 2011 Census and was captured in 2011 data.

Community Development Programme Participation is a new variable for 2016. If comparing 2016 Community Development Programme Participation (CDPP) data with 2011 Community Development Employment Projects scheme (CDEP) data, users should be aware that these are two different programs even though to some extent they cover the same applicable population.

For more information about the Community Development Programme, see the Glossary entry in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Non-response rate

Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions. Because of the way this variable is derived, the non-response rate for the Community Development Programme Participation variable cannot be determined. However, as an indication of the quality of the Community Development Programme Participation variable, 10.4% of applicable persons did not answer question 42 on the Interviewer Household Form. The non-response rate to the 2011 question was 6.8% (see data usage notes section below).

For more information about non-response rates, refer to Understanding Census data quality.

Data usage notes

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet Community Development Programme Regions report[1] indicates that there are over 33,000 participants in CDP as at 30 September 2017. More than 80 percent of these participants identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people. Based on responses to the Interviewer Household Form and using the derivation described above, Census data shows approximately 5,300 Community Development Programme participants (note that this does not correspond with CDP rules or CDP administrative caseload data). The large difference between these numbers is due to a number of limitations in the collection of this variable. As a result, the Community Development Programme Participant variable cannot be used to measure overall participation rates in the program. These limitations are detailed below.

The CDP involves a broader range of activities than would be captured by the question asked on the Interviewer Household Form, which aims to identify participation in a CDP job.

Participation in the CDP program is only captured on the Interviewer Household Form and not across all form types used in the Census. People counted on forms other than the Interviewer Household Form did not have the option to indicate if they participated in the CDP.

In 2016, the proportion of people responding on Interviewer Household Forms within discrete communities was 92.1%. This was lower than previous Censuses (97.1% in 2011) due to increased flexibility in choice of how to respond to the Census. See the data quality statement for Indigenous Status for more information.

People assigned the 'not stated' category in the Community Development Programme Participation variable included those who did not answer the question and those who responded 'No, did not have a job' and then did not answer subsequent questions. Some of these people may have been CDP Participants.

Labour force status classification

A person's response to the question on the Interviewer Household Form, in conjunction with responses to other labour force questions on the form, were used to assign a labour force status. Because of the changing history of participation requirements and programs in remote areas, CDP participants use mixed terminology to describe the kinds of activities they are participating in, and have differing views about whether or not they consider different activities a 'job'. Some CDP participants may have answered this question by stating that they are in a 'CDP job', while others may not. The question asked was aimed at identifying participation for the purposes of deriving labour force status, rather than measuring CDP participation.

As part of the changes from Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme in 2011 to Community Development Programme (CDP) in 2016, payment arrangements for participants were changed, which changed the nature of their labour force status.

- In 2011, people who participated in CDEP received wages from their community. They were considered as having a employer/employee relationship and were classified as employed in the 2011 Census.
- In 2016, people who participated in CDP received income support payments directly from the Government and were not considered to be in an employer/employee relationship with their provider. As such, in the 2016 Census, people who were participating in this Programme were not considered to be employed, unless they had a non-CDP job. People who only participated in CDP and did not have another non-CDP job were classified as either unemployed or not in the labour force, depending on their job search activities. If they did not look for work, then they were considered as not being in the labour force. If they looked for work and were able to start if they found a job, they were considered as unemployed, looking for full-time or part-time work.

This difference in the classification of people participating in these programmes in 2011 and 2016 may contribute to changes in comparisons over time of labour force (employment and unemployment) numbers in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Further information

A definition of Community Development Programme Participation is available in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

For more information related to Community Development Programme Participation, see the data quality statement for Labour Force Status.

Indigenous Household form question image

42 *Last week,* did the person have a paid job of any kind?
- Answer for the main job only. The main job is the job in which the person works the most hours.
- A paid job means any type of paid work if it was for one hour or more.
- If the person was off work because of holidays, sick leave, ceremony or cultural activities, then mark the appropriate 'Yes' box for their main job.
- If the person had a job last week in the Community Development Program, mark 'Yes, CDP job'.

☐ Yes, CDP job ▶ Go to 45   ☐ Yes, worked in own business ▶ Go to 43

☐ Yes, job not CDP ▶ Go to 45   ☐ No, did not have a job ▶ Go to 45

FOOTNOTE
1 Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (October 2017). *The Community Development Progamme Regions* accessed at: https://www.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/publications/cdp-regions_0.pdf

Distance to Work

Distance to Work

This variable presents the distance between a person's Place of Usual Residence (PURP) and Place of Work (POWP). It is applicable to all persons aged 15 years and over who stated their labour force status as 'employed'. The calculation of these new data items used existing Census data. This provided a way to increase the value of Census data without asking additional questions on the Census form.

How this variable is created

Distance to Work (ranges) (DTWP)

Distance to Work (DTWP) is a measurement of the distance travelled between a person's Mesh Block of Usual Residence and Mesh Block of Place of Work. The data item was created using a combination of existing statistical and geospatial data to make new calculations. An assumption in the calculation of this data is that a person has followed the shortest path with no stops when commuting to work.

The data was calculated using the shortest path of a road network, or where this was not possible a straight line distance, between a person's Mesh Block of Usual Residence and Mesh Block of Place of Work. As a straight line distance is likely to under represent the true distance of a commuting route, a correction factor was incorporated by multiplying the straight line distance by 1.3. This value was selected based on ABS analysis on the difference between road network and straight line distance, and the value also aligned closely with similar studies (Broscoe, Henry & Zdeb 2012; Goncalves & Neves 2014; Newell 1980). The source of road network data was Navteq July 2016, produced by HERE Technology.

The data should be considered an estimate as it was a measurement between the centre point (or centroid) of the Mesh Block of Usual Residence and Mesh Block of Place of Work, noting that the location of the centroid in the Mesh Block was weighted based on the location of residential and commercial addresses respectively. Mesh Blocks are the smallest geographical area defined by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and form the building blocks for the larger regions within the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS).

Distance to work data has been presented in a hierarchical classification with four levels of distance ranges. Please see the Appendix for details on the classification of these ranges.

For persons who lived and worked in the same Mesh Block and their Mode of Travel to Work was not recorded as 'Worked from home', 'Did not go to work' or 'Mode not stated', a small distance has been calculated where the centre points for Mesh Block of Usual Residence and Mesh Block of Place of Work were weighted to different locations.

The nil category includes:

- Persons who stated they 'Worked from home', 'Did not go to work' or 'Mode not stated' and their Mesh Block of Usual Residence and Mesh Block of Place of Work were the same
- Persons with the same Mesh Block of Usual Residence and Mesh Block of Place of Work where the centre points were not weighted to different locations

The Not Applicable (@) category includes:

- Persons who were unemployed, not in the labour force, or whose labour force status was not stated
- Persons under 15 years of age
- Overseas visitors
- Persons who were coded to Special Purpose Codes

Imputation Flag (IFDTWP)

The Imputation Flag for Distance to Work (IFDTWP) variable indicates that a person's distance to work was calculated using a straight line or road network distance. The straight line distance was only used where there was a break in the underlying road network data, for example, a person travelled between an island and the Australian mainland. Overall, 95.3% of people's commuting distances were calculated using a road network, 0.2% were calculated with a straight line distance, while 4.5% could not be calculated (see Not Applicable categories). This is applicable to all persons aged 15 years and over who stated their labour force status as 'employed'.

IFDTWP variable categories are shown below:

1 Distance to Work calculated with a straight line distance
2 Distance to Work calculated with a road network distance
@ Not applicable

The Not Applicable (@) category includes:

- Persons who were unemployed, not in the labour force, or whose labour force status was not stated
- Persons under 15 years of age
- Overseas visitors
- Persons who were coded to Special Purpose Codes

Mode of Travel to Work (MTW06P, MTW15P)

The Mode of Travel to Work (MTW06P, MTW15P) is a variable derived from the Census item Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) which records the method used to travel to work on the day of the Census. The Mode of Travel to Work classification has been sourced from the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics (BITRE),

and is applicable to all persons aged 15 years or over who state their labour force status as 'employed'.

Mode of Travel to Work has been presented in a hierarchical classification of two levels: a general level, with 6 modes of transport (MTW06P) and detailed, with 15 modes of transport (MTW15P). The classes within these classifications are shown below:

Mode of travel used for commuting to work

Mode of Travel to Work Codes (MTW15P)	Mode of Travel to Work Description (MTW15P)	Mode of Travel to Work Codes (MTW06P)	Mode of Travel to Work Description (MTW06P)
01	Train	1	Public Transport
02	Bus	1	Public Transport
03	Ferry	1	Public Transport
04	Tram	1	Public Transport
05	Taxi	1	Public Transport
06	Car, as driver	2	Vehicle
07	Car, as passenger	2	Vehicle
08	Truck	2	Vehicle
09	Motorbike/scooter	2	Vehicle
10	Bicycle	3	Active Transport
11	Other Mode	3	Other Mode
12	Walked only	4	Active Transport
13	Worked at home	5	Worked at home or Did not go to work
14	Did not go to work	5	Worked at home or Did not go to work
15	Mode not stated	6	Mode not stated

Variable history
Distance to Work (DTWP), Imputation Flag for Distance to Work (IFDTWR) and Mode of Travel to Work (MTW06P, MTW15P) are new variables for 2016.

Non-response rate
Distance to work does not have a non-response rate as it is a derived value for applicable persons. Non-response rate only applies to data items that directly reflect responses to individual Census form questions.

For more information, refer to Census of Population and Housing: Understanding Census and Census Data, Australia 2016 (cat. no. 2900.0).

Data usage notes
The distance to work data is available within TableBuilder Basic & Pro and is provided as a hierarchical classification (see Appendix) of four levels of distance ranges, at increasing detail.

Place of Work and Method of Travel to Work are collected on the Census form but represent different reference periods. The Place of Work represents the address of the main job held the last week before the day of the Census, while Method of Travel to Work represents how the person travelled to work on the day of the Census. As a result, in some cases a distance between a person's Mesh Block of Usual Residence and Mesh Block of Place of Work has been reported for Mode of Travel to Work such as 'Worked at home' or 'Did not go to Work' where the Mesh Block of Usual Residence and Mesh Block of Place of Work was not the same.

The distance recorded for persons who were away from their Usual Residence on Census night may not be indicative of their typical journey to work. For example, a Fly-in, Fly-out worker may have recorded their Usual Residence in Sydney but their main job held the last week before the day of the Census (Place of Work) was in Western Australia. In these cases, a large distance would be recorded.
Further information
For more information related to Distance to work, see the data quality statements for Method of Travel to Work and Place of Usual Residence, which can be used in conjunction with the Place of Work variable.

For further information about the ASGS please refer to the following publication: Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Statistical Areas, July 2016 (cat. no. 1270.0.55.001).

The Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics have conducted a similar study called Australia's Commuting Distance: Cities and Regions.

List of References
Boscoe, FP, Henry, KA & Zdeb, MS 2012 , A Nationwide Comparison of Driving Distance Versus Straight-Line Distance to Hospitals, The Professional Geographer,vol 64, no 2 10.1080/00330124.2011.583586.

Gonçalves, D & Neves, S 2014 , Analysis of the Difference between the Euclidean Distance and the Actual Road Distance in Brazil, Transportation Research Procedia 3, pp 876-885.

Newell, G 1980, Traffic Flow on Transportation Networks, MIT Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Appendix
Distance to Work (DTWP) Ranges

1 Nil distance
  10 Nil distance
    100 Nil distance
      1000   Nil distance

2 Over 0 to less than 2.5
  20 Over 0 to less than 1
    200   Over 0 to less than 0.5
      2000   Over 0 to less than 0.5
    201   0.5 to less than 1
      2010   0.5 to less than 1
  21 1 to less than 2.5
    210   1 to less than 2.5
      2100   1 to less than 1.5
      2101   1.5 to less than 2
      2102   2 to less than 2.5

3 2.5 to less than 10
  30 2.5 to less than 5
    300   2.5 to less than 5
      3000   2.5 to less than 3
      3001   3 to less than 4
      3002   4 to less than 5
  31 5 to less than 10
    310   5 to less than 10
      3100   5 to less than 6
      3101   6 to less than 7
      3102   7 to less than 8
      3103   8 to less than 9
      3104   9 to less than 10

4 10 to less than 30
  40 10 to less than 20
    400   10 to less than 15
      4000   10 to less than 11

```
4001   11 to less than 12
4002   12 to less than 13
4003   13 to less than 14
4004   14 to less than 15
401   15 to less than 20
4010   15 to less than 16
4011   16 to less than 17
4012   17 to less than 18
4013   18 to less than 19
4014   19 to less than 20
41   20 to less than 30
410   20 to less than 25
4100   20 to less than 21
4101   21 to less than 22
4102   22 to less than 23
4103   23 to less than 24
4104   24 to less than 25
411   25 to less than 30
4110   25 to less than 26
4111   26 to less than 27
4112   27 to less than 28
4113   28 to less than 29
4114   29 to less than 30

5   30 to less than 50
50   30 to less than 50
500   30 to less than 40
5000   30 to less than 32
5001   32 to less than 34
5002   34 to less than 36
5003   36 to less than 38
5004   38 to less than 40
501   40 to less than 50
5010   40 to less than 42
5011   42 to less than 44
5012   44 to less than 46
5013   46 to less than 48
5014   48 to less than 50

6   50 to less than 250
60   50 to less than 100
600   50 to less than 60
6000   50 to less than 52
6001   52 to less than 54
6002   54 to less than 56
6003   56 to less than 58
6004   58 to less than 60
601   60 to less than 80
6010   60 to less than 62
6011   62 to less than 64
6012   64 to less than 66
6013   66 to less than 68
6014   68 to less than 70
6015   70 to less than 72
6016   72 to less than 74
6017   74 to less than 76
6018   76 to less than 78
6019   78 to less than 80
602   80 to less than 100
6020   80 to less than 85
6021   85 to less than 90
6022   90 to less than 95
6023   95 to less than 100
61   100 to less than 250
610   100 to less than 250
6100   100 to less than 110
6101   110 to less than 120
6102   120 to less than 130
6103   130 to less than 140
6104   140 to less than 150
6105   150 to less than 200
6106   200 to less than 250r

7   250 and over
70   250 and over
700   250 and over
7000   250 to less than 300
7001   300 to less than 350
7002   350 to less than 400
7003   400 to less than 600
7004   600 to less than 800
7005   800 to less than 1000
7006   1000 to less than 3000
7007   3000 and over

@  Not applicable
  @@Not applicable
    @@@ Not applicable
      @@@@Not applicable
```

National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) Indicators

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS REFORM AGREEMENT (NIRA) INDICATORS

The National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) is an Intergovernmental Agreement endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments. Also known as the 'Closing the Gap' agenda, this is a partnership between all levels of government to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to achieve the target of closing the gap in outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous people. Progress towards the Closing the Gap targets is measured by a set of indicators known as the Closing the Gap or NIRA indicators.

The ABS Census of Population and Housing is the primary data source for NIRA Indicators 'Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent' and 'Proportion of Indigenous 20 to 64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification AQF Certificate III or above'. It is also a supplementary data source for the NIRA 'Level of workforce participation' indicators.

The ABS provides data for these indicators to the Productivity Commission for the NIRA Performance Information report. Including these indicators in the 2016 Census TableBuilder 'Employment, Income and Education' Basic and 'Counting Persons, Place of Work' Pro Microdata products enables users to analyse them in combination with other Census data topics. They are also complicated to derive and are in demand from a wide range of data users.

The following NIRA indicators are available:

- Level of workforce participation - Proportion of the population who are in the labour force ('Labour Force Participation Flag')
- Level of workforce participation - Proportion of population employed ('Employment Flag')
- Level of workforce participation - Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed ('Unemployment Flag')
- Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent ('Attainment of Year 12 or Certificate II or higher')
- Proportion with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above ('Attainment of Certificate III or higher or Working Towards a Non-School Qualification')

To accompany the NIRA level of workforce participation indicators a 'Survey Comparison Flag' data item has been included in the set. If this flag is included in a table it will

apply a filter to approximate a population that is comparable with in-scope survey populations that are also used to measure progress against NIRA level of workforce participation indicators.

An additional data item 'Attainment of Year 12 or Certificate III or higher' has also been included. This indicator is used in the Report on Government Services indicator BA.12 'Proportion of 20-24 year olds who have completed year 12 (or equivalent) or Certificate III level or above'.

See the 'Data usage' section for further information on using these indicators.

NIRA INDICATORS IN TABLEBUILDER

(i) NIRA Indicator 14: Level of workforce participation - Proportion of the population who are in the labour force

LFFP	Labour Force Participation Flag
	Flag indicates whether or not a person is participating in the labour force as derived from Census Labour Force Status (LFSP).
	This allows calculation of the proportion of the population that is in the labour force as used in National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) Indicator 14 - Level of workforce participation.
Applicable to:	All persons aged 15 years and over
Categories	1 Participates in the Labour Force 2 Not in the Labour Force @ Not applicable - Exclude from table
Number of categories	3
Not applicable (@) category comprises:	- Persons whose labour force status was not stated - Persons under 15 years of age - Overseas visitors

(ii) NIRA Indicator 14: Level of workforce participation - Proportion of the population who are employed

EMFP	Employment Flag
	Flag derives custom employment status categories from Census Labour Force Status (LFSP) to aid calculation of the proportion of the population that is employed, as used in National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) Indicator 14 - Level of workforce participation.
Applicable to:	All persons aged 15 years and over
Categories	1 Employed 2 Unemployed or Not in the Labour Force @ Not applicable - Exclude from table
Number of categories	3
Not applicable (@) category comprises:	- Persons whose labour force status was not stated - Persons under 15 years of age - Overseas visitors

(iii) NIRA Indicator 14: Level of workforce participation - Proportion of the population who are unemployed

UEFP	Unemployment Flag
	Flag derives custom employment status categories from Census Labour Force Status (LFSP) to aid calculation of the proportion of the labour force that is unemployed, as used in National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) Indicator 14 - Level of workforce participation.
Applicable to:	All persons aged 15 years and over
Categories	1 Unemployed 2 Employed @ Not applicable - Exclude from table
Number of categories	3
Not applicable (@) category comprises:	- Persons whose labour force status was not stated or not in the labour force - Persons under 15 years of age - Overseas visitors

(iv) Level of Workforce Participation Survey Comparison Flag

SVFP	Level of Workforce Participation Survey Comparison Flag
	Using this flag approximates a population that is comparable with in-scope survey populations that are used to calculate measures for the National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) Indicator 14 - Level of workforce participation. This is intended for use with the NIRA level of workforce participation indicators.
	Persons out of scope of the survey population include persons living in non-private dwellings, temporary visitors, overseas visitors, members of the permanent defence forces and foreign government representatives.
Applicable to:	All persons aged 15 years and over
Categories	1 In scope of NIRA level of workforce participation survey comparison population @ Not applicable - Exclude from table
Number of categories	2
Not applicable (@) category comprises:	- Persons living in non-private dwellings or temporary visitors to a dwelling - Members of the permanent defence forces or members of foreign representations - Persons under 15 years of age - Overseas visitors

(v) NIRA Indicator 12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or higher

For further information on how this data item is derived, please see the 'Specifications for NIRA education indicators' spreadsheet in the Downloads tab.

YR12C2P	Attainment of Year 12 or Certificate II or higher
	Flag indicates a person's attainment of educational qualifications of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or higher, as derived from Census measures of Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) and Non-School Qualifications: Level of Education (QALLP).
	This allows calculation of the proportion of the population that has attained the relevant qualifications, as used in National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) Indicator 12 - Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent.
Applicable to:	All persons aged 15 years and over
Categories	1 Attained Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or higher 2 Has not attained Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or higher @ Not applicable - Exclude from table
Number of categories	3
Not applicable (@) category comprises:	- Persons without Year 12 attainment whose non-school qualification: level of education was not stated or inadequately described - Persons who did not state their highest year of school completed and who had not completed a non-school qualification: level of education at Certificate II or higher - Persons who did not state their highest year of school completed and whose non-school qualification: level of education was not stated or inadequately described - Persons under 15 years of age - Overseas visitors

(vi) RoGS Indicator BA.12: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate III or higher

For further information on how this data item is derived, please see the Specifications for NIRA education indicators' spreadsheet in the Downloads tab.

YR12C3P	Attainment of Year 12 or Certificate III or higher
	Flag indicates a person's attainment of educational qualifications of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate III or higher, as derived from Census measures of Highest Year of School Completed (HSCP) and Non-School Qualifications: Level of Education (QALLP).
	This allows calculation of the proportion of the population that has attained the relevant qualifications, as used in the Report on Government Services (RoGS) Indicator BA.12 - Proportion of 20-24 year olds who have completed Year 12 (or equivalent) or Certificate III level or higher.
Applicable to:	All persons aged 15 years and over
Categories	1 Attained Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate III or higher 2 Has not attained Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate III or higher @ Not applicable - Exclude from table
Number of categories	3
Not applicable (@) category comprises:	- Persons without Year 12 attainment whose non-school qualification: level of education was not stated or inadequately described - Persons who did not state their highest year of school completed and who had not completed a non-school qualification: level of education at Certificate III or higher - Persons who did not state their highest year of school completed and whose non-school qualification: level of education was not stated or inadequately described - Persons under 15 years of age - Overseas visitors

(vii) NIRA Indicator 15: Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate III or higher

For further information on how this data item is derived, please see the 'Specifications for NIRA education indicators' spreadsheet in the Downloads tab.

C3SP	Attainment of Certificate III or higher or Working Towards a Non-School Qualification
	Flag indicates whether a person has attained a Certificate III or higher or is currently studying a non-school qualification, as derived from Census measures of Non-School Qualifications: Level of Education (QALLP) and Type of Educational Attainment Attending (TYPP).
	This allows calculation of the proportion of the population that has attained the relevant qualifications or is studying for a non-school qualification, as used in National Indigenous Reform Agreement (NIRA) Indicator 15 - Proportion of Indigenous 20-64 year olds with or working towards post school qualification in Certificate III or above.
Applicable to:	All persons aged 15 years and over
Categories	1 Attained Certificate III or higher or studying for a non-school qualification 2 Has not attained Certificate III or higher and is not studying for a non-school qualification @ Not applicable - Exclude from table
Number of categories	3
Not applicable (@) category comprises:	- Persons whose non-school qualification: level of education was not stated or inadequately described and who were not currently studying a non-school qualification - Persons who had not completed a non-school qualification: level of education at Certificate III or higher and whose type of educational institution currently attending was not stated - Persons whose non-school qualification: level of education was not stated or inadequately described and whose type of educational institution currently attending was not stated - Persons under 15 years of age - Overseas visitors

DATA USAGE

Users of these indicators wishing to recreate the data provided in the 2016-17 NIRA Performance Information report will need to exclude the 'Not applicable - Exclude from

table' category from their table. They will also need to include the level of geography required in tables produced.

They will need to include additional data items like Indigenous status (INGP). For example, to extract data for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, users will need to group together INGP categories 3,4 and 5.

Users will also need to include the relevant age group (AGEP) in their table for each indicator as shown in Table 1, and if they wish to produce a level of workforce participation survey comparison population table, they will need to add the Survey Comparison Flag.

Table 1: Guide to using of Age and Survey Comparison data items to produce NIRA indicators

Indicator	Include Age Group
Level of workforce participation - Proportion of the population who are in the labour force	15-64 years
Level of workforce participation - Proportion of population employed	15-64 years
Level of workforce participation - Proportion of the labour force who are unemployed	15-64 years
Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate II or above	20-24 years
Attainment of Year 12 or equivalent or Certificate III or above	20-24 years
Proportion with or working towards post school qualification in AQF Certificate III or above	20-64 years

Indicator	Include Survey Comparison Flag
Level of workforce participation Census population tables	✗
Level of workforce participation survey comparison population tables	✔

There could be minor differences between ABS data produced for the NIRA Performance Information report and data produced in TableBuilder. This is because Census datasets in TableBuilder have additional confidentiality applied through perturbation, which might result in marginal differences in Census counts from other data released by the ABS. For further information on perturbation, see the Census of Population and Housing - QuickStats, Community Profiles and DataPacks User Guide, Australia, 2016 (cat no. 2916.0).

Users are advised that labour force status in the Census of Population and Housing is determined from four simple questions. While these questions to seek to measure concepts related to employment, unemployment and being outside of the labour force, there are a number of differences between what is collected in the Census and what is collected in the ABS Labour Force Survey. For more information see 'The 2016 Census and the Labour Force Survey' page under 'Conceptual information' in this publication.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on these indicators see the National Indigenous Reform Agreement Performance data and the Report on Government Services websites.

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OPGP Homelessness Operational Groups

Homelessness Operational Groups (OPGP)

This variable records the operational group of persons estimated to be homeless or marginally housed on Census night. It is applicable to all persons who are estimated to be homeless or marginally housed.

The 'statistical definition of homelessness' underpins these groups. In brief, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) statistical definition is that:

When a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement:

- is in a dwelling that is inadequate;
- has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or
- does not allow them to have control of, and access to, space for social relations.

The definition has been constructed from a conceptual framework centred around the following elements:

- Adequacy of the dwelling;
- Security of tenure in the dwelling; and
- Control of, and access to, space for social relations.

People must lack one or more of these elements to be defined as homeless. However, people who lack one or more of these elements may not necessarily be classified as homeless if they are living in special circumstances (for example, in hospitals, prisons, student halls or religious orders). While homelessness is not a choice, some people may choose to live in situations that might parallel the living situations of people who are homeless. For example, people may be living in a shed while building a home on their own property, or on holiday travelling and staying with friends. These people have choice because they have the capacity to access other accommodation that is safe, adequate and provides for social relations. Having access to accommodation alternatives is contingent on having the financial, physical, psychological and personal means to access these alternatives (see the Information Paper - A Statistical Definition of Homelessness (cat. no. 4922.0)).

The homeless and marginally housed groups represent an operationalisation of this definition of homelessness within the limits of the data collected in the Census.

How this variable is created

Homelessness itself is not a characteristic that is directly measured in the Census. Instead, estimates of the homeless population are derived from the Census using analytical techniques, based on both the characteristics observed in the Census and assumptions about the way people may respond to Census questions.

Homeless Operational Groups are as follows;

1. Persons living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out;
2. Persons in supported accommodation for the homeless;
3. Persons staying temporarily with other households;
4. Persons living in boarding houses;
5. Persons in other temporary lodgings; and
6. Persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings.

The following groups are considered to be 'marginally housed', that is, whose living arrangements are close to the statistical boundary of homelessness and who may be at risk of homelessness.

Other Marginal Housing Groups are as follows;

7. Persons living in other crowded dwellings;
8. Persons in other improvised dwellings; and
9. Persons who are marginally housed in caravan parks.

While these categories will overlap in a small number of circumstances, people are only assigned to one category to avoid double counting. This is done by only including them in the group that is the highest on the hierarchy. For example, a person in supported accommodation for the homeless may also be living in 'severely' crowded dwellings, but the person will only be coded to the group '2. persons in supported accommodation for the homeless' as it is higher on the hierarchy than group '6. Persons living in 'severely' crowded dwellings'.

The 'Not applicable' category refers to persons who were not estimated to be homeless or marginally housed on Census night.

Variable history

The ABS has a long history of collecting information relevant to identifying homeless people in the Census. In the 1933 and 1947 Censuses, a question was asked for the 'number of persons (if any) who slept out throughout the year on verandahs (not enclosed sleep-outs)'. In 1986, a dwelling structure category 'Improvised dwelling' was provided on the form for the collector to mark. This category was changed to 'Improvised home, campers out' in 1991, but there was no distinction between homeless people and those who were camping (such as on holiday).

From 1976 to 1991, collectors were instructed to seek out all people camping or sleeping out by visiting 'any places in your Collection District (CD) on Census night where it is likely that persons may be sleeping out, e.g. camping areas, park benches, derelict buildings etc'. They were instructed if they found such a person to issue a Household Form and help them fill it out on the spot. They were assigned to a non-private dwelling (NPD) type 'campers out'. However, some collectors may not have followed this instruction if they did not believe there were people in their area, or for fear of their own safety. Prior to 1996, some Divisional Managers undertook additional measures to enumerate the homeless, such as providing refreshments.

The 1996 Census was the first Census to target Australia's homeless population using a special enumeration strategy. This strategy aimed to not only maximise the coverage of the Australian population but also to provide information to policy makers and service providers on the number and characteristics of people experiencing homelessness. In the lead-up to the Census, the ABS liaised with relevant state/territory organisations to gain their assistance in identifying accommodation likely to cater for people experiencing homelessness. In addition, prior to Census night ABS staff from regional offices contacted groups providing services for the homeless to identify possible sites where homeless people were likely to be located. Where possible, members of the homeless community were engaged to enumerate areas where significant numbers of homeless people were likely to spend Census night. For more information see 'Appendix 3: 2016 Census Procedures' in the publication: Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016 (cat. no. 2049.0).

The current statistical definition of homelessness was first developed in 2012 (see the Information Paper - Methodology for Estimating Homelessness from the Census of Population and Housing (cat. no. 2049.0.55.001)), and with it the methodology to apply it to Census data to obtain national homelessness estimates. The first official estimates of the prevalence of homelessness were published in 2012 using data from the 2001 and 2006 Censuses. Estimates have subsequently been produced for the 2011 and 2016 Censuses.

Data usage notes

To calculate the total homeless population, use only the Homeless Operational Groups 1 to 6.

Further information

More information including detailed estimates can be found in the publication:Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016 (cat. no. 2049.0).

Detailed methodology used to estimate persons in each operational group can be found in 'Appendix 2: Estimation Methodology' in the publication: Census of Population and Housing: Estimating homelessness, 2016 (cat. no. 2049.0).

More information on the methodology can be found in the publication: Information Paper - Methodology for Estimating Homelessness from the Census of Population and Housing (cat. no. 2049.0.55.001), and information on the statistical definition of homelessness can be found in the Information Paper - A Statistical Definition of Homelessness (cat. no. 4922.0).

Conceptual information

Conceptual information

This section will be updated with information as developed.

Useful Links

2016 Census Dictionary

Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content, Australia, 2016

Information Paper: Census of Population and Housing - Products and Services, 2016

Census of Population and Housing: Reflecting Australia - Stories from the Census

2016 communications campaign

How Australia Takes a Census, 2011

Census of Population and Housing - Details of Undercount, 2016

Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS): Volume 1 - Main Structure and Greater Capital City Areas, July 2016

Comparing the average number of persons per bedroom over time

Comparing the average number of persons per bedroom over time

There has been a change in methodology used to calculate the average number of persons per bedroom between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses. This page outlines the differences in the methodology to help users understand how to interpret and analyse this information.

To enable time series comparisons to be made on a consistent basis, in August 2017 the 2016 Time Series Profile (table T02) was updated with calculations made using the new methodology.

The method used to calculate the average number of persons per bedroom for the 2016 Census is summarised in the following equation. This method produces a representative dwelling based measure:

$$average\ persons\ per\ bedroom = \frac{sum\ for\ all\ dwellings\left(\frac{number\ persons\ usually\ resident\ in\ a\ dwelling}{number\ of\ bedrooms\ in\ a\ dwelling}\right)}{total\ number\ of\ dwellings}$$

To calculate the average persons per bedroom, the ABS creates the ratio of number of persons usually resident in a dwelling to the number of bedrooms in a dwelling. This ratio is rounded to increments of 0.1 for processing purposes. The average persons per bedroom is then calculated in the standard manner as the sum of these ratios divided by the total number of dwellings.

This calculation uses the Census classifications:
(i) BEDD number of bedrooms in private dwelling, and
(ii) NPRD number of persons usually resident in dwelling. <link to Census Dictionary entries>

The method incorporates the following adjustments:
- it *excludes* dwellings where not stated and not applicable responses were found in either the BEDD or NPRD classifications.

- it <u>excludes</u> visitor only, other non-classifiable and not applicable dwellings using the HHCD household composition classification.
- it weights the number of people usually resident in dwellings by whole numbers based on the NPRD classification. The category of 8 or more people in this classification is weighted to 8.
- it weights the number of bedrooms in private dwellings by whole numbers (based on the BEDD classification). The category of 0 bedrooms (includes bedsitters) receives a weight of 1 to avoid scenarios involving division by 0, and the category of 30 bedrooms or more receives a weight of 30.
- this weighting approach is necessary because processing the ratio calculation can only occur on a discrete variable with a finite range.

For the 2011 Census, the process of creating this discrete variable was based on rounding the ratios to whole numbers. For the 2016 Census, the ratios have been rounded to increments of 0.1. This improves the accuracy of the average persons per bedroom calculation by minimising the downward bias present in this approach. To illustrate, for 2011 Census output, the ratio for 3 persons living in a private dwelling with 2 bedrooms was rounded to 1; for 2016 Census output, this ratio is rounded to 1.6.

Understanding ancestry in the Norfolk Island population

Understanding ancestry in the Norfolk Island population

Data usage note

Ancestry data reported for Norfolk Island from the 2016 Census is not comparable with Pitcairn ancestry data reported from Norfolk Island Censuses (2011 and prior). The ABS cautions against conclusions made on the basis of comparing the two. The following article explains the reasons why.

Differences between questions on ancestry in the 2016 Census and the 2011 Norfolk Island Census

The 2011 Norfolk Island Census asked one question relating to ancestry, specifically whether a person was of Pitcairn descent or not. This image shows the question as asked in the 2011 Norfolk Island Census.

In contrast, the 2016 Census asked respondents to identify up to two ancestries only, using either the tick box list provided or by writing in the text fields. The image below shows the question on the 2016 Census form.

The two questions are fundamentally different in their format and design, and their intent. While the 2011 Norfolk Island Census aimed to capture information specifically about Pitcairn ancestry, the 2016 Census aimed to capture up to two ancestries that the person most affiliates with. For example, a respondent in the 2016 Census may have Pitcairn ancestry but indicate English and Australian instead if they feel more strongly associated with these ancestries. In the 2011 Norfolk Island Census it is likely that this person would have responded 'Yes' to the question of Pitcairn descent.

Pitcairn ancestry was identified in the 2011 Norfolk Island Census through a respondent simply checking the 'Yes' box, whereas Pitcairn ancestry in the 2016 Census was identified by a written response in either the first response or second response text fields (as instructed in the information sheet provided to each person enumerated on Norfolk Island, see image below). The requirements from the respondent between the two types of questions are vastly different and therefore the results from these two Censuses in relation to Pitcairn are not comparable.

The enumeration of Norfolk Island was an area of special attention for the ABS and specifically for questions relating to culture. An information sheet was provided to each person on Norfolk Island that gave instructions about how to respond using Norfolk Island specific examples. The image below shows the instruction given for the Ancestry question.

Image: 2016 Household Paper Form - Question 18. What is the person's ancestry? If the person is of Pitcairn descent, please answer 'Pitcairn'.

Comparison of data from the 2016 Census with previous Norfolk Island Censuses

An addendum [2] to the 2011 Norfolk Island Census report [3] showed that the proportion of the Norfolk Island population who reported Pitcairn descent had reduced from 40.3% in 2006 to 38.4% in 2011. The 2016 Census showed that 29.6% of usual residents on Norfolk Island who provided a response to the ancestry question indicated that they had Pitcairn ancestry. If recent arrivals (persons born overseas arriving between 2012 and 2016) and recent births (persons aged under five years old) are excluded from the calculation, the proportion of people stating a Pitcairn ancestry is 30.8%.
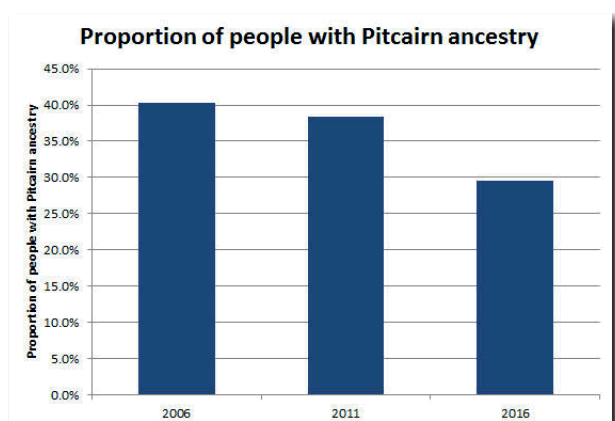
Source: 2006 and 2011 data from Addendum to Norfolk Island 2011 Census report.
2016 data from 2016 Census of Population and Housing.

A lower incidence of Pitcairn response in the 2016 Census may be an outcome of not having a direct prompt for Pitcairn on the Census form, as was the case in the previous Norfolk Island Censuses.

It may also be partly reflective of increasing numbers of people on Norfolk Island of non-Pitcairn descent and decreasing numbers of those with Pitcairn descent (either through migration or death), as suggested in the 2011 Norfolk Island Census report. The 2016 Census showed 262 responses of Pitcairn ancestry for people usually resident in other states and territories of Australia (notably Queensland and New South Wales), which may support a theory of increased migration out of Norfolk Island of people of Pitcairn descent.

In the 2016 Census, while responses of 'Pitcairn' to the Ancestry question were coded to 'Pitcairn', responses of 'Norfolk Island' (and variations) were coded to 'Australian'. This is consistent with the coding practices of previous Australian Censuses, however will be reviewed for the 2021 Census to determine how these responses may be otherwise classified. There are approximately 120 usual residents of Norfolk Island who indicated that they had 'Norfolk Island' ancestry (approximately 7% of Norfolk Island Usual Residents). Of these 120 persons, approximately 30 persons also indicated that they had Pitcairn ancestry and are included in the count of those with Pitcairn ancestry.

Exploring 2016 Census Ancestry Responses

Standard Census products for the 2016 Census show that the most common ancestries [1] for usual residents of Norfolk Island (Statistical Area Level 3) were Australian (22.8%), English (22.4%), Pitcairn (20.0%), Scottish (6.0%), and Irish (5.2%). This means that, for example, 20.0% of all ancestries reported were Pitcairn, with some people reporting two ancestries and some people reporting one.

Almost 54% of usual residents of Norfolk Island indicated only one response to ancestry, with just 14.8% providing a Pitcairn only response.

Just over 40% of usual residents of Norfolk Island provided two responses, including 12.4% that provided a Pitcairn response in addition to another response.

Responses		Proportion of population (%)
Total Population		**100.0**
Single Ancestry Response	Pitcairn only	14.8
	Australian only	14.1
	English only	11.2
	Other only	13.5
	Total	**53.7**
Two Ancestries	Australian/Pitcairn	6.2
	English/Australian	5.9
	English/Other	10.6
	English/Pitcairn	3.2
	Australian/Other	4.9
	Pitcairn/Other	3.0
	Other combinations	5.4
	Total	**40.4**
Not stated		**5.8**

Note: Percentages may not add exactly due to rounding in cells.

Ancestry Information from previous Norfolk Island Censuses

Excerpt from the Norfolk Island 2011 Census Report [3]:

As in previous Norfolk Island Censuses, the 2011 Census again asked a question relating to Pitcairn descent. In comparing the responses between census periods of between 1986 and 2006, the ratio of a "yes, of Pitcairn descent" and "no, not of Pitcairn descent" response is around 1:1. For the 2011 Census, the ratio has slightly changed to 1:1.5. Thus for two persons of Pitcairn descent, there are three persons of non Pitcairn descent in the ordinarily resident population on Norfolk Island. This may imply that persons of Pitcairn descent may have relocated temporarily or migrated and that the increased number of persons of non Pitcairn descent is a contributing factor in the ratio.

Excerpt from the Addendum to the Norfolk Island 2011 Census Report [2]:

In ensuring that the 2011 Census figures relating to the "ordinarily resident population" are comparable to the previous censuses, all TEP holders and Others (itinerant population) are added to the "permanent population" and none are assumed to be of Pitcairn descent. Figure 2.14b indicates that, at the time of the 2011 Census, 38.4 percent of ordinarily resident population were of Pitcairn descent and 60.8 percent were not of Pitcairn descent. As in figure 2.14a, the responses between 1986 and 2011 censuses remain consistent with minimal differences in proportions.

Figure 2.14b: Distribution of Ordinarily Resident Population[2] of Pitcairn Descent, All Ages
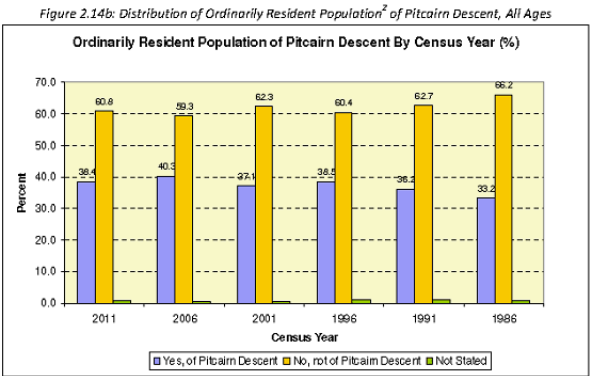
Source: Addendum to Norfolk Island 2011 Census report.

Footnotes:
1. Respondents had the option of reporting two ancestries on their Census form, and this is captured by the Ancestry Multi Response (ANCP) variable used in this table. Calculated percentages represent a proportion of total reported ancestry responses in Norfolk Island (Statistical Area Level 3), and therefore the total responses count will not equal the persons count.
2. Norfolk Island Regional Council. (2012). *Addendum to the Norfolk Island 2011 Census Report*. Retrieved from: http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/sites/default/files/public /documents/ANIReports/Census/Census_2011_Addendum%2817.01.12%29.pdf
3. Norfolk Island Regional Council. (2011). *Norfolk Island Census of Population and Housing 9 August 2011*. Retrieved from: http://www.norfolkisland.gov.nf/sites/default/files /public/documents/ANIReports/Census/Census_2011.pdf

The 2016 Census and the Labour Force Survey

Introduction

The Census of Population and Housing (Census) and Labour Force Survey (LFS) both collect information about the labour market activity of people aged 15 years and over. While both collections seek to measure concepts related to employment, unemployment and being outside of the labour force, there are a number of differences between them. This fact sheet outlines the strengths and key uses of each collection, as well as how the collections differ, and explains why the statistics produced in each of these two collections are not directly comparable. It also provides advice on how Census and LFS data can be used together in the analysis of change over time.

Strengths and key uses of the Census and LFS

The Labour Force Survey produces the most authoritative and recent estimates of labour market information, including employment and unemployment. Labour force statistics are published monthly by the ABS in *Labour Force, Australia* (cat no. 6202.0). The Labour Force Survey is designed specifically to measure changes over time in the Australian labour force, and to provide a high quality measure for use in international comparisons. It provides a highly accurate estimate of key labour force statistics of the Australian economy, including employment, unemployment and underemployment, as well as a range of more detailed labour market-specific data. The Labour Force Survey is the leading source of data for monitoring Australia's labour market conditions.

The Census provides a rich snapshot of all people living in the country on Census night. It is the leading source of information for small population groups and areas, and allows for the analysis of labour market activities and industry and occupation data at a more detailed level. The Census also collects information about a range of characteristics of people, including, but not limited to, their labour force status, enabling analyses across a broader range of socioeconomic dimensions.

Summary of differences between the Census and the Labour Force Survey

	Census	Labour Force Survey
Purpose	Counts the number of people living in Australia on Census night and the dwellings in which they live. Also collects information about a range of characteristics of people, including, but not limited to, their labour force status.	Monthly household survey providing Australia's official estimates of employment and unemployment. It is the leading source of data for monitoring Australia's labour market conditions.
	Provides a rich snapshot of all people living in the country on Census night. It is the leading source of information for small population groups and areas, and allows for the analysis of industry and occupation data at a more detailed level.	Designed specifically to measure changes over time in the Australian labour force. It provides a highly accurate estimate of key labour force statistics of the Australian economy, including employment, unemployment and underemployment, as well as a range of more detailed labour market-specific data.
Frequency	Conducted every five years.	Monthly collection with respondents in the sample for 8 consecutive months.
	Provides a single snapshot of Australia on Census night.	Provides a continuous time series of data on the Australian labour force for historical and international comparisons.
Reference period	The week prior to the Census night.	The week prior to that in which the monthly survey is conducted.
Collection methodology	A self-completed online or paper form.	Telephone interview, face-to-face interview by highly trained interviewers, with some self-completed online enumeration.
Survey questions	Questions cover a broad range of topics.	Questions mainly focused on measuring labour force status.
	Labour force status determined from four simple questions. Questions are used to ascertain if a person is working, actively looking for work and available to start work.	Labour force status determined from an extensive range of questions, producing a highly accurate classification of people as employed, unemployed or not in the

Sampling error	Not subject to sampling error as it aims to collect the information from everyone in Australia on Census night. However the Census is subject to some level of undercount.	Results are subject to sampling error as estimates based on information obtained from a sample of dwellings. The sample is designed to ensure sampling error is reduced to a minimum at the national and state/territory levels. However, it can be higher for labour force regions or for detailed breakdowns. The estimates are therefore accompanied by information on the quality of the estimates, including relative standard errors.
Treatment of non-response	To account for unreturned Census forms, demographic characteristics of persons in non-responding households are either imputed or included in the 'not stated' category. Labour force status is not imputed and data are not adjusted for non-responding households.	Only fully responding households contribute to the estimates. Non-responding households are treated as 'not stated' and excluded and adjusted for through the weighting process.
	Issues with response or coverage are identified through the Post Enumeration Survey, which is conducted a few weeks after the Census to estimate the number and characteristics of people either not counted or counted multiple times on Census night.	As a sample survey, it is weighted to an independent population benchmark based on the Estimated Resident Population (ERP), which ensures estimates add up to an independently estimated distribution of the usual resident civilian population aged 15 years and over, regardless of any sample lost due to non-response.

Census Data Quality Statement

Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0)

Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001)

Place of Enumeration vs Place of Usual Residence

Should I use Area of Enumeration Data or Usual Residence Data?

The Census is collected on a "Place of Enumeration" basis. This means that wherever you are staying on Census night is where you fill in a form and are counted. One of the questions on the Census form also asks "Where does the person usually live?" Responses to this can be the same as the current location (place of enumeration) or at a different address entirely. In effect, this creates two different sets of data. The enumerated dataset is a count of where people actually were on Census night. The usual residence dataset records where people usually live. Both sets of data have different uses and advantages, allowing them to be used in different situations.

What is Area of Enumeration Data?

The place of enumeration is the place at which the person is counted *i.e.* where they spent Census Night, which may not be where they usually live. It is considered neither a person, family nor dwelling level variable but rather a geography and can be applied to all levels of data, allowing access to data on person, dwelling and household topics. Census counts based on place of enumeration can be provided for individual Mesh Blocks (MBs), and any aggregations of Mesh Blocks, such as postal areas or Statistical Areas Level 2 (SA2s) or above. This means that an Area of Enumeration data set can be as small as a single suburb or as large as Australia as a whole. A detailed description of place of enumeration can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Area of enumeration data provides a good representation of any given day in time because there will always be people visiting, occupying non-private dwellings, travelling, etc. that are not apparent when usual residence data is used. This can provide insight into atypical situations, such as holiday resort areas; areas like the Gold Coast or snow fields in winter, which may show a larger place of enumeration count compared with their usual residence count.

- In 2016, 93.9% of people were enumerated at home (counted on Census Night where they usually live).
- In 2011, 95.2% of people were enumerated at home. *
- In 2006, 95.3% of people were enumerated at home.

* The 2011 TableBuilder Pro dataset - Counting Families - is incorrectly labelled as Place of Usual Residence. It should be labelled as 2011 Census - Counting Families, Place of Enumeration.

What is Usual Residence Data?
A place of usual residence (PURP) refers to the area where a person usually lives regardless of where they were on Census Night. It is NOT considered a geography; rather it is considered a person level variable and therefore can only be applied to persons not families or dwellings. The responses to questions relating to place of usual residence in the Census form code them to a Mesh Block of usual residence. The PURP variable is hierarchical which means that Census counts based on PURP counts can be also be aggregated to higher levels of geography. When using usual residence data people are not coded to a specific dwelling or family and are instead linked back to the area in which they usually live. Like all person level fields, usual residence can ONLY be used when counting persons. Further information beyond person data and usual geographic location cannot be determined. A detailed description of usual residence data can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Usual residence data records where people usually live based on Census night. This means you are only dealing the data from the residents of a particular area, not that of visitors. Because of the nature of usual residence data and how it is collected, it is less likely to be impacted by seasonal influences. This is useful for organisations which use the locally resident population, for example the age structure of the people who live in a certain area can be used to determine the allocation of funds for health services to a region.

Comparing Data

In the two tables below we can set the total populations for four areas in Queensland at the SA3 geography level. The Area of Enumeration table contains the total number of persons residing in each SA3 on Census night, including overseas visitors and guests. The Usual Residence table contains the total number of residents that usually live in dwellings located in these specific geographic areas.

Area of Enumeration Total Population		Usual Residence Total Population	
<< SA3		<< SA3 (UR)	
Surfers Paradise	57,451	Surfers Paradise	40,836
Brisbane Inner	81,715	Brisbane Inner	67,585
Toowoomba	149,655	Toowoomba	149,513
Townsville	191,534	Townsville	186,809
Total	480,353	Total	444,742

As seen in the tables, certain areas contain an increased total population when looking at place of enumeration. Areas such as Surfers Paradise and Brisbane Inner have larger enumerated populations when compared with their usual residence totals, most likely due to an influx of tourists and visitors. This is not always the case, however. Certain places such as Townsville or Toowoomba might have their populations remain static over Census night, with little or no increase in their total populations. In some cases the Enumerated population might even be smaller than the usual residence.

One reason that the Census is typically carried out on an August date is with the aim of minimising the impact of travel, avoiding major public holidays and school holidays. When large numbers of people are away from their usual residence, it increases the difficulty of data collection.

Why can't I count Families or Dwellings using Place of Usual Residence?

Firstly, a dwelling does not move. It does not have a 'place of usual residence'. Likewise, all the variables associated with a dwelling belong to that particular dwelling and cannot be moved. It is not logical to count the number of bedrooms in a dwelling by usual residence. The number of bedrooms belongs to a particular dwelling and they do not move, regardless of whether the people within them do.

Secondly, using 'place of usual residence' will produce a number that is misleading and likely to be incorrectly interpreted.

For example: Using the illustration below, imagine there are five dwellings with male and female residents represented as outline figures. Now count the number of dwellings by sex:

This would produce a table showing the count of dwellings containing females as four and the count of dwellings containing males as four, insinuating a total of eight dwellings. However there are only five dwellings altogether, not eight.

Family variables are only derived for people counted at their usual residence. Temporarily absent persons are used to help classify types of relationships and families existing in a household, but they are not used in the derivation of any other Census characteristics or in other Census output. Family and household structures are based on persons usually resident. If ALL members of a family or household are temporarily absent from their usual residence, no family records are created for them and the family or household is not counted.

Uses for each Dataset

Area of Enumeration	Place of Usual Residence
A point in time (Tuesday night in August) – Provides a 'snapshot' of mobile populations.	Address where people usually live or have lived recently (6 months or more) – Less likely to be influenced by seasonal factors such as school holidays and snow seasons.
Available for all person, dwelling and household topics	Available for person datasets only
Useful to gauge temporary population such as tourists and itinerant workers	Useful for all services which use the locally resident population such as planning for local government services
Does not provide the 'typical' population of an area	Cannot determine characteristics of absent people
Population may be inflated in some areas, such as tourist locations and CBD (central business district)	Does not capture population mobility
Available data for all (Census) years back to 1991	Available for data from 2006 onwards. Censuses prior to this have provided limited information on usual residence
Example question: How many visitors were staying in Surfers Paradise on Census night?	Example question: What is the age structure of the people who live in a certain area?

Family Composition

Understanding Family Composition

The questions based on families on the Census form capture information which can be used to provide insight into the composition and structure of a household, and the relationships between people within a dwelling. It must be noted though that while ALL families belong to households, NOT all households are families.

In the ABS, a household is broadly defined as:

"one or more persons, at least one of whom is at least 15 years of age, usually resident in the same private dwelling"

By definition this means that there may potentially be more than one household within the same private dwelling. However in the context of Census data collection there is never more than one household per dwelling, and the terms 'dwelling' and 'household' are often used interchangeably. By ABS definition at least one usual resident present must be aged 15 years or older for a household to be formed and coded. Households with only persons aged less than 15 years are coded to 'Other non-classifiable'.

In the ABS, a family is deemed to exist when two or more persons, one of whom is at least 15 years of age, who are related by blood, marriage (registered or de facto), adoption, step or fostering, are usually resident in the same household. Godparent and godchild relationships are not treated as related for Census classification. For a family to be coded in the Census, two or more related people must usually live in an occupied private dwelling, and at least one of these people must be counted at home on Census night. Further information about Family data can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Classifying Families

When classifying a family type, the Family Composition (FMCF) variable is used. This variable has been used in the 2006, 2011 and the 2016 Census, replacing the Family Type (FMTF) variable which was used in previous Censuses. For the Census, FMCF relates only to the basic composition of the family. FMCF is the principal family variable used in family tabulations. When cross-classified with other variables, such as Location of Spouse (SPLF), Tenure Type (TEND), Dwelling Structure (STRD), Family Number (FNOF) and Total Family Income (weekly) (FINF), demographic characteristics of the different family compositions can be established.

Classifying Households

When classifying a household, the Household Composition (HHCD) is used. This variable has been used in the 2006, 2011 and the 2016 Census, replacing the Household Type (HHTD) variable which was used in previous Censuses. The major categories when classifying households include: One family household; Multiple family household; Non-family household and Non-classifiable (including households such as Visitor Only). A full list of the categories including subcategories can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

A household consisting only of visitors is deemed to be a visitor only household. A visitor is anyone who does not usually live in the household in which they were enumerated on Census night. A family who were all visitors to that dwelling would become a visitor only household, and no family relationship information would be recorded for them. Prior to 1991 Visitor only households were not categorised as a separate subcategory under Household type. Many dwelling level variables are still applicable to visitor only households, including Household Income (HIND).

Other non-classifiable households are households where not enough relationship information exists in order to enable coding. They include households where all usual residents are under the age of 15, households which had people imputed into them, and households where no people answered the relationship question on the Census form.

Interrelationship of Households, Families and Persons

The household, family and person relationship classifications do not work in isolation from each other. They are heavily interdependent - understanding how they relate to each other will assist in understanding how to manipulate variables to extract the most relevant data as required.

Husband, Wife or Partner

These relationships will only exist in couple families, and no more than two people can have this type of relationship within any one family. It is possible to have more than two people with this relationship within a household because multiple families can exist within a single household, i.e. each couple will form a separate family. All couple families will have at least one person with this type of relationship. It is possible that only one person in a family has this relationship as the spouse or partner is temporarily absent. Absent people are taken into account when determining family composition. The reference person in couple families will be someone with this type of relationship.

Lone parent

Only one person can have this type of relationship within any one family, and such a relationship is only found in lone parent families. All lone parent families contain a person with the relationship of 'Lone parent' and this person was present on Census night. This person is always the reference person in such families.

Child under 15

All children under 15 must be attached to a 'parent'. These are people with the relationship of Husband, Wife or Partner or Lone parent who are present on Census night. Children cannot be a reference person within a household.

- A natural or adopted child under 15 will be the natural or adopted child of both parents or of a lone parent.
- A step child may be the step child of either the female or male parent, including the step child of a lone parent. However, current coding procedures mean that

step children only occur in primary families and are edited out of second and third families.
- A child can only be classified as a grandchild if no closer parent-child relationships can be found in the family. Such grandparents would be coded as Husband, Wife or Partner or Lone parent within the family.
- 'Other related child' may include relationships such as nephew, niece, cousin, etc. as determined via Relationship in Household (RLHP). However for other Family variables instead of these relationships being recorded as such, they become an attached child to their "statistical parent" as determined by coding rules, who may not necessarily be their biological parent. Their "statistical parent" must be someone who is present in the household on Census night, even if their actual biological parent is a Usual Resident who was temporarily absent.
- An 'Unrelated child under 15' is a child whose relationship is not one specified in the classification but who usually resides in that family.

Dependent student

Dependent students are persons aged from 15-24 years, who are in full time study and are living with either a natural, adopted, step or foster parent. Other relationship types for persons aged 15-24 (grandchild, nephew, etc.) are coded as Other Related Individual, and such persons are never coded as dependent students. (This is different to Child under 15, which does allow for a 'parent-child' relationship to exist with other types of relationships.)

Non-dependent child

A non-dependent child is a person who usually lives with their natural, adopted, step or foster parent, is aged 15 years or more, and does not fit the description of dependent student. A non-dependent child not only includes young people, (e.g. a 20 year old apprentice living at home), but could also include much older people living at home and caring for their elderly parents. For example, a 63 year old woman looking after her 86 year old mother would be coded as a One-parent family, with the 86 year old coded as a 'Lone parent' and the daughter as a 'Non-dependent child'.

Other related individual

For a person to be coded as "Other Related Individual" they must be aged 15 years or more. A person will be classified as Other Related Individual if they do not form a core couple or parent-child relationship with someone else within the family. They may be attached to a couple family or lone parent family. For example, a couple with their adult niece would be coded as a couple family with no children, and the niece would be attached to the family as Other Related Individual 'Nephew/niece'.

If no couple or parent-child relationships exist within the family but other relationships are present (and everyone is aged over 15 years) then all members of the family are coded as Other Related Individual and the family is coded as an 'Other family'. For example, if a woman lived alone with her adult niece, she would be coded as an 'Aunt', her daughter as a 'Nephew/niece', and they would be an 'Other family'.

Unrelated individual living in family households

A person is coded as an 'Unrelated individual living in a family household' if they are not related to any other members of the household, but other household members are related to one another. Family type and other family variables are 'Not applicable' for such people, but their household composition will be 'Family households'.

Group household member

A group household exists where two or more unrelated people live in house together and no family relationships exist between any members. A group of friends living in a share house would fall into this classification. All usual residents in such households are coded as 'Group household member'.

Lone person

A person is coded as a 'Lone person' when they are aged 15 years and over and are the sole usual resident of a household.

Relationships Matrix – Legitimate Relationships for the 2016 Census

Household (Dwelling)		Household Composition (HHCD)	Family Households				Lone Person Household	Group Household
Family		Family Composition (FMCF)	Couple Family with no children	Couple family with children	One Parent Family	Other Family	Not Applicable	
Person	Code	Relationship in Household (RLHP)						
	11	Husband, Wife in a Registered Marriage a	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
	15	Partner in de facto marriage, opposite-sex couple a	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
	17	Partner in de facto marriage, male same-sex couple a	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
	18	Partner in de facto marriage, female same-sex couple a	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
	21	Lone parent b	N	N	Y	N	N	N
	31	Natural or adopted child under 15	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	32	Step child under 15	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	33	Foster child under 15	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	34	Grandchild under 15	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	35	Otherwise related child under 15	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	36	Unrelated child under 15	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	41	Natural or adopted dependent student	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	42	Student step child	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	43	Student foster child	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	51	Non-dependent natural, or adopted child	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	52	Non-dependent step child	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	53	Non-dependent foster child	N	Y	Y	N	N	N
	61	Brother/Sister	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	62	Father/mother	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	63	Non-dependent grandchild	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	64	Grandfather/grandmother	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	65	Cousin	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	66	Uncle/aunt	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	67	Nephew/niece	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	69	Other related individual (nec)	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	71	Unrelated individual living in family household	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N
	72	Group household member	N	N	N	N	N	Y
	73	Lone person c	N	N	N	N	Y	N
	91	Visitor (from within Australia)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
	99	Other non-classifiable relationship	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N

a Only up to two people with these relationships can exist in any one family

b Only one Lone parent can exist in any one family

c Only one Lone person can exist in any one household
The list of legitimate relationship for second and third families is the same under family coding rules, though more restrictive in terms of child relationships.

Form Design and Coding

It is difficult to develop a method that best captures true family relationships but also is simple for everyone to understand. The coding of families is a consequence of the ability to capture complex relationships from a few simple questions on the Census form.

Family and household relationship information is primarily taken from Question 5, as seen above. However age and sex is also used when coding families and relationships, and occasionally information from other questions is used as well.

Coding of families can be affected by the following:

- The order in which respondents in the household fill themselves out on the form.
- How respondents themselves interpret their relationship to persons 1 and/or 2.
- The coder's judgement and interpretation.

Example

There are three people on the form, and they have filled out the form in the following way:

Person One: (sex: male, age: 28)
Person Two: Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 (sex: male, age: 29)
Person Three: Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 (sex: female, age: 27)

If the household had filled out their form starting from a different person, however, it could look like this:

Person One: (sex: male, age: 29)
Person Two: De facto partner of Person 1 (sex: female, age: 27)
Person Three: Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1 (sex: male, age: 28)

If the former Person Two was Person One instead (and therefore became the Household Reference Person), this household would change classification from being a Group Household, with no family, to being a One Family Household, as two of the members are now noted as being in a de facto partner relationship.

Household Arrangements

Many users interested in family and household data are specifically interested in family care arrangements. However it is important to note that conclusions drawn from Census data are based on assumptions and that care arrangements are not captured in the Census. Family structure is not indicative of family care.

Some Examples:

Reality: A son and his girlfriend are living with the son's mother while they are saving for a house. The mother owns the house, and the son and girlfriend pay the mother board.
Coding: The son and his girlfriend are coded as a couple family without children. The mother is coded as an otherwise related person to the primary family.
Possible Misinterpretation: Users of the data may incorrectly assume that the house belongs to the young couple, and that they are taking care of the mother.

Reality: A 17 year old girl is living with her grandmother while she is finishing school. She has lived with her grandmother for some time, and is dependent on her as her own parent cannot take care of her.
Coding: As the grandchild is over 15, the family becomes an 'Other family' with the relationships of 'Grandfather/grandmother' and 'Non-dependent grandchild'.
Possible Misinterpretation: It may be wrongly interpreted that the grandchild is living with the grandmother to provide care for her or simply that they both choose to live together.

The important issue to note from these examples is that some assumptions of family situations cannot be drawn from Census family and household data, and users should be aware of this when making such interpretations.

Some 2016 Facts and Figures

Usual Address Indicator on Census Night	
	(proportion of persons in occupied private dwellings)
At home	96.7%
Elsewhere in Australia	3.3%
Family Composition	
	(proportion of families)
Couple family without children	37.8%
Couple family with children	44.7%
One parent family	15.8%
Other family	1.7%
Household Composition	
	(proportion of households/dwellings)
One family household	64.9%
Two family household	1.7%
Three or more family household	0.1%
Lone person household	22.8%
Group household	4.0%
Visitors only	1.7%
Other not classifiable	4.8%
Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Household	
	(proportion of family households)
No person temporarily absent from family household	91.8%
One or more persons temporarily absent from family household	8.2%

Ancestry

Working with Ancestry and Ancestry Multi Response Data

The ancestry question captures information which, when used together with other variables (such as Country of Birth, Birthplace of Mother and Father, and Indigenous Status), can provide a good indication of a person's ethnic background. A person's ancestry is not necessarily connected with their birthplace – instead it relates to the cultural groups with which they most closely identify. It is particularly useful in identifying distinct ethnic or cultural groups within Australia such as Torres Strait Islanders or Australian South Sea Islanders, and groups spread across multiple countries such as Kurds or Indians. Country of birth alone cannot identify these groups. Further information about Ancestry data can be found under Understanding Census Data and in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

The ancestry question is relatively unique in that it is one of the few multi-response questions on the Census form. In 2016 respondents were permitted to provide up to two ancestries. It is important to understand how the Ancestry Multi Response variable works so that misinterpretation of the data does not occur.

Understanding Ancestry Data

On the Census form respondents were advised to provide a maximum of two ancestries with which they most closely identify. To help determine one's ancestry, the Census guide suggested respondents consider the origins of each person's parents and grandparents. In 2016, more than 300 different ancestries were reported. To analyse ancestry, two variables are used: ANC1P and ANC2P. These represent the respondent's first response and second response to the ancestry question.

Respondents do not have the option of ranking their answers to the ancestry question, so where a respondent reports two ancestries, those two ancestries have equal standing. The basis for allocating ancestries to the variables ANC1P and ANC2P is administrative only, and based on the order in which they were processed. For example, if a person identifies with both German and French ancestry, German will be counted by ANC1P – because it has a tick box option (which is positioned higher on the form than the written response box – in which 'French' must be entered). French would be counted by ANC2P. If someone only provided one ancestry response, of French in the written response section, then ANC1P would be 'French' and ANC2P would be 'Not Applicable'. A person cannot provide the same response to ANC1P and ANC2P.

The Ancestry Multi Response (ANCP) field combines the values from ANC1P and ANC2P. This enables it to count the total number of ancestry responses (that is each person's first and, if applicable, second response).

While Ancestry Multi Response is used to make a number of Census output products, it is only available for use in TableBuilder Pro – other versions of TableBuilder only provide ANC1P and ANC2P separately. The following tables demonstrate how these different variables show different outputs:

<< ANC1P - 4 Digit Level	
Australian	4,833,100
German	444,150
Other Ancestries	16,491,950
Not stated	1,632,686
Total	23,401,891

Table 1: ANC1P - Ancestry First Response

<< ANC2P - 4 Digit Level	
Australian	2,465,142
German	538,069
Other Ancestries	4,967,455
Not applicable	15,431,214
Total	23,401,891

Table 2: ANC2P - Ancestry Second Response

ANCP Ancestry Multi Response	
Australian	7,298,241
German	982,221
Other	17,349,909
Not stated	1,632,686
Not applicable	15,431,214
Total	23,401,891

Table 3: ANCP - Ancestry Multi Response

Note that because the Ancestry question asks for **up to** two ancestries, Not Stated is only relevant to ANC1P – ANC2P is not a required field for those people who provided one ancestry. Instead, Not Applicable is used only for ANC2P, and provides a count of people who did not provide a second ancestry, regardless of if they provided one response or not.

ANCP Multi Response: counting responses or people?

The greatest confusion for users of ancestry data relates to what the Ancestry Multi Response field actually counts. When it is added to a table and all the individual ancestries are summed together, a total count of responses - not people - is produced. This is because each person can provide up to two ancestries. So the total count of responses for all ancestries in Australia exceeds Australia's total population. However, when using ANCP to look at individual ancestries, the story changes: the count of responses is also the count of people. This is because respondents can only state a particular ancestry once (either as ANC1P or ANC2P).

The tables above help illustrate these differences. While the count of German responses is equal to the count of people who indicated they had German ancestry (982,221), the count of total ancestry responses (25,630,371) – that is, the sum of 'Australian', 'German' and 'other' ancestry categories – exceeds the count of 'Total' persons (23,401,891). The reason for this is that while there are 982,221 people with German ancestry, and 7,298,241 people with Australian ancestry, some people will be counted in both categories. These are people with both Australian and German ancestry. This is further inflated by those who are of Australian or German ancestry as well as of 'Other' ancestries. The 'Total' row counts the total number of PEOPLE who responded, while the other rows count the number of each different RESPONSE – regardless of if they were ANC1P or ANC2P.

The two Other Ancestries codes for ANC1P and ANC2P also do not add up to the same amount as the ANCP Multi Response. This is because any person in this example that provides 2 different ancestries which are neither Australian nor German would only be counted once in this category – it counts the number of *people* who provided other ancestries, not the number of *responses* that were other ancestries.

Ancestry combinations

Anyone who reported two ancestries is considered to have a 'combined ancestry'. Combined ancestries can be examined in the 2016 Census data using TableBuilder and other Census products.

For example, if we want to count the number of people with Australian, New Zealand, or Maori ancestries, the Ancestry Multi Response field will produce these individual counts correctly, as seen in **Table 4** below. We know the Total produced is a count of the persons who provided the information in the table. It is not a total of all the numbers above it — that would be a total of responses (and would be equal to 7,648,066).

But if instead we wanted to know how many people reported both Maori *and* Australian ancestry, or both Australian *and* New Zealander ancestry, we require a table which cross-tabulates people's first ancestry response by their second response. as seen in **Table 5**. By running ANC1P by ANC2P, we can derive the counts of people with 'combined ancestries'. These tables also produce the number of "sole-identifiers" for each ancestry – these are found in each ancestry's Not Applicable column.

ANCP Ancestry Multi Response	
Australian	7,298,241
New Zealander	207,718
Maori	142,107
Total	7,557,357

Table 4: Ancestry Multi Response (selected ancestries)

<< ANC2P - 4 Digit Level << ANC1P - 4 Digit Level	Australian	New Zealander	Maori	All other ancestries	Not applicable	Total
Australian	0	66,422	18,292	675,014	4,073,372	4,833,100
New Zealander	502	0	2,677	15,931	53,863	72,969
Maori	282	2,540	0	14,509	45,510	62,841
All other ancestries	2,464,360	65,788	58,301	4,586,056	9,625,790	16,800,294
Not stated	0	0	0	0	1,632,686	1,632,686
Total	2,465,142	134,754	79,265	5,291,509	15,431,214	23,401,891

Table 5: ANC1P by ANC2P (selected ancestries)

From **Table 5**, we can tell that there were:

- 45,510 people who stated *'Maori'* as their only ancestry.
- 81,719 people (15,931 + 65,788) who stated *'New Zealander'* and another ancestry that was neither Australian nor Maori.
- 4,586,056 people who stated two ancestries - neither of which being Australian, New Zealander, or Maori.
- 13,798,528 (15,431,214 - 1,632,686) people who only stated one ancestry.
- 5,217 people who stated the two ancestries: New Zealander and Maori.

Other Ancestry issues

Subjectivity of Ancestry

Because responses to the ancestry question are based on self-perception, the results must be interpreted with care. While the question successfully captures the ancestry with which people identify, its data is not as robust as that gained from some of the other cultural questions – for instance, country of birth, parents' birthplace, year of arrival, or language spoken at home. Responses to these questions are not based on perceptions but definitive facts. People can identify with whichever ancestry they like – regardless of their origin – and we can only report on the data collected. It is important to be aware of this.

Analysing ancestry across Census years

The ancestry question was asked in 1986, 2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016. Over time it has experienced changes in both coding and form design.

For instance, between the 2006 and 2011 Censuses, the number of people with Scottish ancestry increased from 1.5 million to around 1.8 million. This did not reflect an influx of Scots to Australia during those five years but was more likely related to *"Scottish"* being introduced as one of the tick box options on the Census form during the 2011 Census.

Additionally, as responses are based on self-perception, the data collected is especially sensitive to changes in culture. When comparing ancestry Census data over time, refer to the classification (ASCCEG), the relevant Census dictionaries, and past Census forms for any changes or issues affecting the specific population in question.

Place of Work

Understanding Place of Work Data

People use Place of Work data for a variety of reasons, including when making assessments of public transport needs, commuting distance and environmental related aspects of travelling, as well as for assessing local opportunities for work. Census is the only data source for which this specific information is available Australia wide on a small area basis. Place of Work information is only applicable to the 10.1 million people in employment in the week before Census night.

Place of Work (POWP) data provides information on where employed people aged 15 years or over worked in the week prior to Census Night. POWP data is determined from the written responses to the 'Business name' and 'Workplace address' questions on the Census form about the main place of work last week. It is coded to geographic areas known as Destination Zones (DZNs). The data from POWP, Place of Usual Residence (PURP) and Method of Travel to Work (MTWP) can be cross classified to provide Journey to Work data, which can be used to examine the movements of people to and from work, to analyse transport patterns and to assist in planning for the development of transport systems. A detailed description of Place of Work can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary.

Method of Transport

Method of Travel to Work provides information on the transport methods employed people aged 15 years or over used to get to work on Census day itself. On the Census household form respondents were able to record up to three different responses for method of transport. However, it should be noted that the majority of people only listed one transport, with only around 3.8% of respondents having listed multiple modes of transport. One exception was walking which is only included where walking was the sole method of transport to work, e.g. a person who wrote catching the train then walking to work would be listed simply as catching the train to work.

MTWP Method of Travel to Work	
Train	4.57%
Bus	3.03%
Ferry	0.11%
Tram	0.55%
Taxi	0.18%
Car, as driver	61.54%
Car, as passenger	4.59%
Truck	0.80%
Motorbike/scooter	0.60%
Bicycle	1.01%
Other	0.69%
Multiple Methods	3.78%
Walked only	3.47%
Worked at home	4.71%
Did not go to work	9.40%
Not stated	0.97%
Total	100.00%

The full listing of the combinations for multiple transports can be found in the 2016 Census Dictionary. These can be re-grouped or recoded in different ways to be more useful to the data users. A number of people did not go to work or worked at home on Census Day and this should be remembered when validating MTWP numbers against the number of total people employed.

Interpreting the Data

The data items related to Place of Work all have different time references. This can have major implications when considering how to interpret the data.

- Area of Enumeration refers to the place where an individual person was counted on Census Night
- Place of Usual Residence is where a person usually lives. It may, or may not, be the place where that person was counted on Census night.
- Method of Travel to Work refers to how a person travelled to work on the DAY of the Census.
- Place of Work refers to the address of the main job the specific Census respondent held in the WEEK prior to the Census.

This difference in time frames can produce outliers in the data due to a variety of legitimate reasons.

Example 1: A person 'walked' to Brisbane from the Gold Coast

A person spent the night before the Census in Brisbane with a friend and then walked to work in Brisbane City. After work she caught a train back to her parent's home on the Gold Coast (which she regarded as her usual place of residence) on the evening of Census night, which was the location where she was enumerated.

Example 1	
Area of Enumeration	Gold Coast
Place of Usual Residence	Gold Coast
Place of Work	Brisbane City
Method of Transport to Work	Walked Only

Example 2: 'Caught a ferry to Alice Springs from Manly'

A person mainly worked in Alice Springs during the week prior to the Census. However the person could have either:

- Moved to Sydney in the intervening week and taken a ferry to their new place of employment, or
- Been a Fly-in/Fly-out worker who usually lived in Sydney and was enumerated at home, and who temporarily visited the Sydney head office that day, before heading back to Alice Springs for another work stint later in that week.

Example 2	
Area of Enumeration	Manly
Place of Usual Residence	Manly
Place of Work	Alice Springs
Method of Transport to Work	Ferry

Which to use: Area of Enumeration or Place of Usual Residence?

Both Area of Enumeration and Place of Usual Residence are valid ways of determining place of origin but they will tell you different things. Some things to think about are:

- Fly-in/Fly-out workers and the different ways they may have reported themselves on the form.
- Enumeration will show a more 'average winter day' of the year (regarding visiting or holidaying tendencies) whereas usual residence may demonstrate more long term trends.
- Usual residence is unlikely to reflect 'an average day', especially in inner city areas where numerous visitors may use transport (such as taxis and ferries) but who do not usually live in those specific areas.

Please see Place of Enumeration vs Place of Usual Residence for further information.

Troubleshooting

Why am I not getting any data?

It may be possible that there are no people who usually reside in one particular area and who work in another particular area. This is particularly so if you are cross-classifying Place of Work data with other variables such as occupation, industry and method of travel to work.

I am trying to get a reasonable comparison with other survey data

Be careful of the geography you are using. If you are trying to compare to other surveys, double check the definition of the geography for each. The area of the 'postcode' of one may not necessarily match up with the ASGS.

My totals don't add up

Be careful when validating against employed totals. Reasons for figures not adding up include:

- Not including the Not Stated category of POWP

- Not including the Not Stated category of MTWP
- If Labour Force is Not Stated, then the POWP of that person is coded 'Not Applicable'
- If using 1996 data, DNSP must be used in conjunction with DNZP to fully define the DNZs
- The removal of additivity in the process of perturbation

I am trying to compare Place of Work data over different Censuses

Place of Work data has been produced since 1971, however the destination zones have been redefined on each occasion to take into account changes and growth within each state and territory. Therefore data is not comparable across Censuses. Other reasons include:

- Data was not available at Destination Zone level prior to 2011, except by customised data request.
- Changes to the question about Place of Work, especially in the instructions for people with no place of work, and in coding persons to 'not applicable' and 'not stated' categories.
- The 2016 Census is the first time the IFPOWP variable, which allows data users to identify not only if a destination zone has been imputed, but precisely how much information the respondent had provided about their Place of Work. Prior to 2016, Place of Work was listed as "Not Stated" for respondents who did not provide enough information.
- Prior to 1986, all data was at the LGA level rather than SLA level. This is because the Australian Statistical Geography Classification was first introduced during the 1986 Census.
- Furthermore, prior to 2001 Journey to Work data was available only for those people who lived and worked within study areas. Those who worked outside the study area (but were enumerated within it) were coded as 'Worked Outside Study Area'. Those persons enumerated outside the study areas were not included in the data, regardless of where they worked.

I want to cross-tabulate Place of Work with other geographies.

A table cross-referencing SA2 of origin (Place of Usual Residence) by SA2 of destination (Place of Work) for all of Australia should be avoided due to its size and difficulties in processing. A similar table could be attempted at a state level with additional cross-border SA2s added in. Areas that are smaller than an SA2 should not be cross-tabulated with Place of Work even at a state level.

Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1) and destination zones should only be attempted for specific areas of interest.

It is important to calculate cell counts before attempting a Place of Work table as they can very easily exceed the maximum table size recommendation of being equal to or less than the target population (i.e. employed persons, or a subset thereof).

Understanding Migrant Statistics in the 2016 Census

Understanding migrant statistics in the Census and other data sources

Census

The Census of Population and Housing (Census) collects a range of information about the cultural and linguistic diversity of the Australian population such as country of birth, country of birth of mother/father, year of arrival, main language other than English spoken at home, proficiency in spoken English, Australian citizenship, ancestry, and religious affiliation. It also provides a range of information on education, work (e.g. labour force status, occupation and industry), income, mobility, and characteristics of families and households.

The Census is therefore a leading source of information about migrants and allows for detailed analysis across a broad range of socioeconomic dimensions. However, a number of other data sources are available and therefore this page provides an overview of strengths and key uses of each collection.

Estimated Resident Population (ERP) by Country of Birth

Information on the country of birth of Australian residents is available annually from the Estimated Resident Population (ERP), and it is therefore another key data source for information on migrants. The ERP is the official ABS estimate of the Australian population. Among its many uses are the determination of the number of representatives from each state and territory to sit in the House of Representatives, and the annual allocation of Commonwealth funds for state governments and local government.

ERP by country of birth is mainly based on the number of people counted in each country of birth from the Census of Population and Housing, but also takes a number of other factors into account.

As the Census generally relies on people self-reporting their country of birth, on occasions people fail to give sufficient detail to allow their response to be allocated to a particular country. For example, a person may report their country of birth as "United Kingdom" or "Africa". As part of producing ERP, these responses are redistributed across the countries that make up that region. Persons counted in the Census that do not report a country of birth at all are similarly redistributed.

While the Census makes every effort to count each person in Australia once (and only once), inevitably some people are missed and some are counted multiple times. Generally, more people are missed than counted more than once, and this therefore leads to a net undercount. The net undercount for each country of birth is estimated through the Post Enumeration Survey (PES), a large survey taken soon after the Census.

In addition, a number of people who usually live in Australia are out of the country on Census Night and therefore not in scope of the Census. The number and country of birth of Australian residents temporarily overseas is determined mainly from information collected and compiled by the Department of Home Affairs.
Further adjustments are made for births, deaths and net migration to account for the period between June 30 and Census Night. As a result of these adjustments, ERP is generally higher than the Census count. For example, the 2016 ERP estimate of the number of persons born in China was 526,040, while the number of persons born in China according to the unadjusted Census count was 509,555.

The Estimated Resident Population for each country of birth is updated annually as at June 30 each year, based on births, deaths, and overseas migration. The ERP therefore represents the most accurate and timely statistics available on the population for each country of birth (and for summary statistics such as the proportion of Australians who were born overseas).

However, only an extremely limited number of characteristics of the population by country of birth are available through Estimated Resident Population: age, sex, and (in Census years only) state or territory of residence. For information on other characteristics, such as main language other than English spoken at home, the Census usually represents the best data source.

Estimated Resident Population by Country of Birth is currently published in *Migration, Australia* (cat. no. 3412.0), with a brief summary table included in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

Summary of differences between the Census and Estimated Resident Population by Country of Birth

	Census	Estimated Resident Population by Country of Birth
Purpose	Counts the number of people in Australia on Census Night and the dwellings in which they live. Collects information about a range of characteristics of people, including their country of birth, main language spoken at home, ancestry, and religion.	Estimated Resident Population (ERP) is the official ABS estimate of the Australian population.
	Provides a rich snapshot as at Census Night. It is the leading source of information for the characteristics of small population groups and areas, and allows for the analysis of cultural and linguistic diversity at a highly detailed level.	ERP by Country of Birth provides the definitive source for the number of Australian residents born in each country, and their age, sex, and (in Census years only) state or territory of residence.
Frequency	Conducted every five years.	Updated annually. Rebased every five years following the Census.
	Provides a single snapshot of Australia on Census night.	Provides an annual time series of data on the country of birth of Australian residents for all countries since 1996, and for selected countries since 1992. Other data may be available on request.
		Information by state or territory currently only available in Census years as there is insufficient data on interstate migration by country of birth.

Reference period	Census Night	June 30 of each year
Methodology	Generally a self-completed online or paper form.	Based on Census counts, with adjustments made for vague or missing responses, persons missed in the Census, and residents temporarily overseas.
Scope	Persons usually resident in Australia and present in Australia on Census Night.	Persons usually resident in Australia.
Sources of error	Not subject to sampling error as it aims to collect the information from everyone in Australia on Census night. However the Census is subject to undercount. Subject to vague or missing responses.	Not subject to missing data as vague or missing country of birth responses are redistributed to individual countries, but these methods may introduce a small amount of error.
		Accounts for persons missed by the Census. However, the adjustment for Census undercount is based on a sample survey (the Post Enumeration Survey) and is therefore subject to sampling error. The scale of this error is very minor relative to the size of the estimate.
		Any inaccuracies in the components used to update ERP (births, deaths, and net overseas migration) will be present in the estimate and will compound over time. However, the error in these components is small.

Other ABS data sources on migrants and migration

As most ABS collections contain information on country of birth and other key indicators of cultural and linguistic diversity, there are a number of other data sources providing information on migrants. Generally these collections contain more detailed information on particular topics but do not allow the detailed analysis of small populations or small groups that is possible using the Census.

For an overview, refer to *Migrant Data Matrices* (cat. no. 3415.0)

Labour Force Survey

The monthly labour force survey collects is designed specifically to measure changes over time in the Australian labour force. It provides a highly accurate estimate of key labour force statistics of the Australian economy, including employment, unemployment and underemployment, as well as a range of more detailed labour market-specific data.

Country of birth and year of arrival is collected as part of this survey, allowing labour force characteristics to be explored for migrants generally, and for persons born in particular regions or countries.

As the Labour Force Survey is a sample survey, it is subject to sampling error. The sampling error for individual countries of birth, particularly for individual months, may be high.

Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey (CORMS) is conducted every three years as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey. It provides data about the labour force status and other characteristics of recent migrants, along with general demographic and employment characteristics. Information available from the survey includes the type of visa currently held by recent migrants and the type of visa held on their arrival in Australia, education and employment before and after arriving in Australia, any difficulties experienced finding work, and proficiency in English.

Other household surveys

Information on migrants is routinely collected in the ABS Household Survey program. Regular surveys cover such topics as Health, Disability, Education, Income, and Wealth.

Integrated data sources

The Census and other data sources have been linked providing information on migrants using data integration techniques. As they are not based on samples, they generally allow detailed analysis of small groups.

This data can be accessed via TableBuilder or as Microdata in the DataLab, more details can be found on the Available Microdata page.

Australian Census Migrants Integrated Dataset

The Australian Census Migrants Integrated Dataset (ACMID) consists of information from permanent migrant settlement records, linked to the information from the Census.

It provides detailed information on the social and economic characteristics of migrants from the Census by a migrant's entry conditions such as visa class, primary/secondary applicant status, and whether migrants were offshore or onshore applicants.

Australian Census Temporary Entrants Integrated Dataset

Australian Census Temporary Entrants Integrated Dataset (ACTEID) consists of information on persons granted temporary visas, linked to the information from the Census.

It provides detailed information on the social and economic characteristics of temporary migrants by such characteristics as visa class.

Personal Income Tax Migrants Integrated Dataset

The Personal Income Tax Migrants Integrated Dataset (PITMID) consists of permanent migrant settlement records linked to ATO Personal income Tax data.

It provides information on the personal income of migrant taxpayers in a given reference year, such as employee income, business income, investment income and other income.

Statistics on migration

Information on *flows*, or the numbers of persons migrating to or from Australia, is published quarterly in Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0).

More detailed information on the characteristics of persons migrating to or from Australia (such as their age, sex, and visa type) is published annually in Migration, Australia (cat. no. 3412.0). Other information is available on request.

More information

Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001)

Migrant Matrices (cat. no. 3415.0)

Census Classifications and Supplementary Codes

Census Classifications and Supplementary Codes

Most classifications in the Census Dictionary contain 'Supplementary codes'. Supplementary codes are used to code responses that otherwise do not fit into the main classification.

Common supplementary code categories include:

- Not stated
- Not applicable
- Overseas visitor
- Inadequately described
- Not further defined
- Not elsewhere classified

Not stated

This category is used when no response has been provided to a particular question on the Census form. This differs to surveys that usually do not have a "*not stated*" category because they determine answers though interviewer assistance or may impute results on the few occasions where they do not receive a response.

The Census imputes information for the variables for age (AGEP), sex (SEXP), registered marital status (MSTP) and usual residence (PURP). All other Census variables have not stated categories. The ampersand symbol *'&'* is used to denote *'Not stated'* in 2016.

An exception to this is for family and household relationships. If all the people on the form did not state their relationships, it is coded as a *'Not classifiable'* household. If only some people in the household did not state relationships, then their relationship will be inferred from other information on the form, or else coded to 'otherwise unrelated'.

Treatment of 'Not Stated' Responses

When calculating percentages with Census data, you may choose to include or exclude the *'Not stated'* responses depending on the Census variables you're examining. When you exclude *'Not stated'* responses prior to the calculation of percentages, you are effectively distributing the *'Not stated'* results across the remaining categories. In doing so, you are assuming the stated responses are representative of the *'Not stated'* responses.

This may not necessarily be a safe assumption to make: particular population groups may be more likely not to respond to certain questions than other population groups. For example, low-income earners may be less likely to respond to the personal income question than high-income earners. If you exclude the 'Not stated' category in such instances, make sure you explain that their exclusion may have had an impact on the information presented.

What is most important is that you clearly specify when *'Not stated'* responses have been included or excluded from the table or analysis.

Not Applicable

The *'Not applicable'* category exists for questions which do not apply to all persons and so, for these people, no response is required. For example, the question asking for a person's Year of Arrival in Australia is not applicable to people born in Australia – in this case, all Australian-born people will be classified as *'Not applicable'*. Similarly, the question asking a person's occupation is *'Not applicable'* for persons aged under 15 years, as is ANC2P for people who only provided one response to the ancestry question.

In the Census Dictionary the classification information states explicitly which population groups have been classified as *'Not applicable'*. The '@' symbol is used for *'Not applicable'* in 2016.

Overseas Visitors

People who usually live in another country and were visiting Australia for less than one year are recorded in Census data as an *'Overseas visitor'*. Only information on age, sex and registered marital status is recorded for overseas visitors; all other information is coded to the *'Overseas visitors'* supplementary category for each variable. The letter *'V'* is used to denote overseas visitors. Many users wish to exclude overseas visitors from tables they have built. This can be done by using any variable (except AGEP, SEXP and MSTP) by grouping all responses together and excluding the overseas visitor category.

Indigenous Status is commonly used to exclude overseas visitors.

Note: There are specific issues in excluding overseas visitors prior to 2011. RLHP should not be used to exclude visitors in the 2001 Census as there are coding issues, and historic Censuses treated overseas visitors differently. Therefore it is important you use the historic dictionaries for the relevant census to determine how each census treated overseas visitors at the time.

Inadequately Described

This category captures responses not clear enough to be categorised elsewhere. For example, if someone gave their birthplace as Earth or Soviet Union, this would be coded to *'Inadequately described'*.

Not Elsewhere Classified (nec)

This is used as a "dump code" for legitimate responses that do not have an individual listing in the classification. For example, if someone gave their ancestry as Greenlandic, it is coded to *'2499 Northern European, nec'* along with Faeroese and Saami.

Not Further Defined (nfd)

This code is used when enough information exists to partially code information, but there is not enough information to code it to the most detailed category in the classification. For example, if someone listed their birthplace as 'Yugoslavia' it is coded to *'South Eastern Europe, nfd'* because there is not enough information to know whether the person should be coded to Serbia, Montenegro, etc.

Another example is religion. If a person listed their religious belief as 'Any religion' or 'I believe', there is not enough information to more specifically code this belief, so it is coded to *'Religious belief, nfd'*.

When calculating percentages in classifications which use the *'Inadequately described'*, *'nec'*, or *'nfd'* supplementary codes, you should treat these data categories as standard categories – that is, don't exclude and distribute them the way you might with *'Not stated'* categories.

Temporarily Absent People

Temporarily Absent People

Unlike surveys which immediately capture and code the family usually resident in a dwelling whether all members are present at the time of the survey or not, the Census only captures information on those who were present in the household on Census night (see the below screen shots from the Census paper form). To help make sense of the kind of family or household that usually lives in the specific dwelling, there is an option for up to three temporarily absent members of the household to be recorded on the back of the Census form.

Only very basic information is captured about these people (age, sex, Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait origin, relationship to Person One and if they are a current student), but this is enough information to help code the actual family and household composition of that dwelling more accurately.

53 For each person *away*, complete the following questions:

| Name of each person who usually lives in this dwelling but was *away* on Tuesday, 9 August 2016. | First or given name | First or given name | First or given name |
| | Surname or family name | Surname or family name | Surname or family name |

| Is the person male or female?
• Mark one box for each person away. | ☐ Male
☐ Female | ☐ Male
☐ Female | ☐ Male
☐ Female |

| What is the person's date of birth or age?
• If date of birth not known, please give age. Example:
Day Month Year
1 3 0 1 1 9 6 8
OR
4 8 Years | Day Month Year

OR
Age
☐☐ Years | Day Month Year

OR
Age
☐☐ Years | Day Month Year

OR
Age
☐☐ Years |

| Is the person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?
• For persons of both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, mark both 'Yes' boxes. | ☐ No
☐ Yes, Aboriginal
☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander | ☐ No
☐ Yes, Aboriginal
☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander | ☐ No
☐ Yes, Aboriginal
☐ Yes, Torres Strait Islander |

| Is the person a full-time student? | ☐ No
☐ Yes | ☐ No
☐ Yes | ☐ No
☐ Yes |

| What is the person's relationship to Person 1/Person 2?
• Examples of other relationships: SON-IN-LAW, GRAND-DAUGHTER, UNCLE, BOARDER. | ☐ Husband or wife of Person 1
☐ De facto partner of Person 1
☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2
☐ Child of Person 1 only
☐ Child of Person 2 only
☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1
Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) | ☐ Husband or wife of Person 1
☐ De facto partner of Person 1
☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2
☐ Child of Person 1 only
☐ Child of Person 2 only
☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1
Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) | ☐ Husband or wife of Person 1
☐ De facto partner of Person 1
☐ Child of both Person 1 and Person 2
☐ Child of Person 1 only
☐ Child of Person 2 only
☐ Unrelated flatmate or co-tenant of Person 1
Other relationship to Person 1 (please specify) |

There are six 'temporarily absent' variables that are available for output. Five relate to different kinds of people absent for the family, and one is used to count the number of people absent from the dwelling.

Absent from Family

- CNDAF – Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent
- CDSAF – Count of Dependent Student (15-24) Temporarily Absent
- CDCAF – Count of Dependent Children Under 15 Temporarily Absent
- CPAF – Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Family
- SPLF – Location of Spouse

Absent from Dwelling

- CPAD – Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Household

Examples

Here are some examples of how information on temporarily absent people can impact on data.

*Example 1: The location of spouse (SPLF) is temporarily absent.*

Instead of Family Composition for this household being recorded as a 'Lone parent family', the information on the back of the form about the temporarily absent spouse allows the family to be coded as a 'Couple family with children'. The Household Composition remains as 'One family household'. The count of people temporarily absent from the family (CPAF) and the household (CPAD) is one.

Example 2: Unrelated and absent individuals

Instead of Household Composition for this household being recorded as a 'Lone person household', the information on the back of the form allows the household to be coded as a 'Group household'. The count of people temporarily absent from the household (CPAD) is two. Counts of persons absent from the family are not applicable for this household because it is not a family household.

Example 3: Multiple family household, with family members temporarily absent
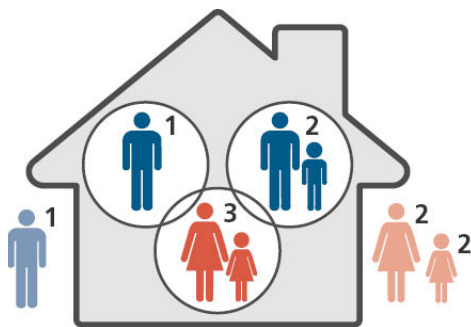
Using the relevant variables, and the information available for the three temporarily absent persons, we can determine the following information about the families in this dwelling. The numbers in the diagram are Family Numbers (FNOF), as determined by information provided by respondents and coding rules.

HHCD Household Composition: Three Family Household
CPAD Count of Persons Temporarily Absent from Household: Three persons temporarily absent from household

	Family number 1 (FNOF = 1)	Family number 2 (FNOF = 2)	Family number 3 (FNOF = 3)
FMCF Family Composition	Couple Family without children	Couple Family with children under 15, (no students or non-dependents)	Lone parent family with children under 15, (no students or non-dependents)
CPAF Count of Persons Temporarily Absent From Family	One person temporarily absent from family	Two persons temporarily absent from family	No persons temporarily absent from family
SPLF Location of Spouse	Temporarily Absent	Temporarily Absent	N/A
CNDAF Count of Non-Dependent Children Temporarily Absent	N/A	One dependent child under 15 years temporarily absent	N/A
CDCAF Count of Dependent Children Under 15 Years Temporarily Absent	N/A	N/A	N/A
CDSAF Count of Dependent Students (15-24 years) Temporarily Absent	N/A	N/A	N/A

Why are 'temporarily absent' variables necessary?

There are three main reasons for collecting data on persons who are temporarily absent from the household on Census night:

1. Greater accuracy in coding families and households;
2. Counting the number of usual residents per household, and
3. Performing calculations such as the average number of persons per household.

Place of Usual Residence

It is a common misconception that 'Place of Usual Residence' means that people who are visitors on Census night are placed back in their usual dwelling during processing. This **is not true**. 'Place of Usual Residence' only refers to the geographical area in which each individual person usually lives. They are not linked back to their individual household. Someone must be a usual resident of the household in which they were enumerated for family and household characteristics to be established. If everyone in the household were visitors they would be coded as a 'Visitor only household' regardless of any family relationships, and no family relationships would be recorded for them. Similarly, they would all be absent from their usual address on Census night, and their dwelling would be coded as an 'Unoccupied private dwelling'. Please see Place of Enumeration vs Place of Usual Residence for further information.

The Census also relies on people to fill in information on temporarily absent people to establish the number and type of 'usual residents' in any one household.

Grandparent Families

Grandparent Families

In the Census, families are identified and classified in terms of the relationship that exists between a single family reference person and each other member of the family. Grandparent families are recognised where there is a grandparent-grandchild relationship in a family and no parent-child relationship.

There is great demand for information on grandparent families; however there are limitations on what can be provided from the Census. Prior to 2011, this information is available by customised request only. For the 2016 Census, the Grandparent Families (FMGF) variable is available as a standard output data item in Census TableBuilder Pro, as is Child Type (including grandchildren) (CTGP) and Relationship in Household (including grandchildren) (RLGP). These are all variants of the basic family and relationship variables.

Standard variables	Grandparent variables
RLHP (Relationship in Household)	RLGP (Relationship in Household, including grandchildren)
FMCF (Family Composition)	FMGF (Grandparent Families)
CTPP (Child Type)	CTGP (Child Type, including grandchildren)

Relationship in Household (RLHP) and Relationship in Household, including grandchildren (RLGP)

Both variables describe the relationship of each person in a family to the family reference person, or, where a person is not part of a family, that person's relationship to the household reference person. RLGP classifies grandchildren, including those aged 15 years and over, as a 'child', whereas RLHP classifies persons aged 15 and over as an 'other relative'.

There are three categories in the Relationship in Household (including grandchildren) (RLGP) classification that can denote grandchild relationships which is used for the Grandparent specific variables:

Code	Label
34	Grandchild under 15
44	Dependent student grandchild
54	Non-dependent grandchild

When considering grandchildren in the standard family variables (RLHP Relationship in Household and FMCF Family Composition), the following facts should be kept in mind. The most important is that RLHP contains only two grandchild variables, unlike RLGP - Grandchild under 15 and Dependent student grandchild.

RLHP is used in the standard family composition coding. How this impacts on the grandchildren variables can be seen in the diagrams below.
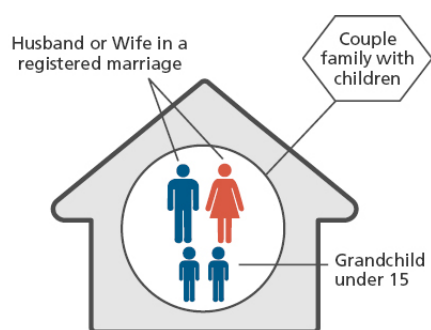
To be categorised as a grandchild under 15 the child must be aged less than 15 and the relationship to the 'parents' in the family is as a grandchild.
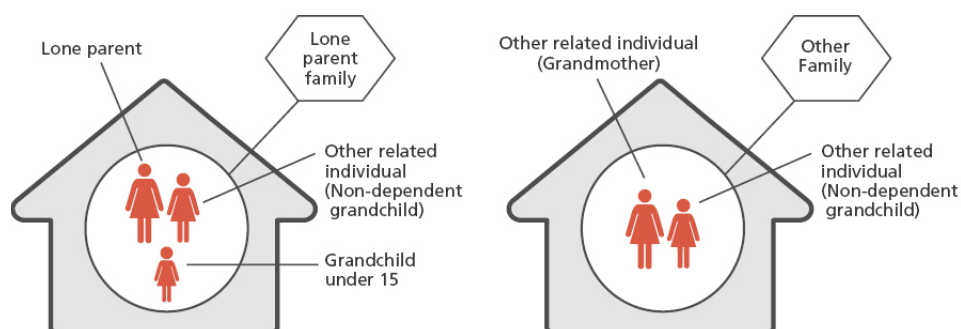
To be categorised as a non-dependant grandchild, the child must be aged 15 or more. They may or may not be a student. Note that a parent-child relationship is only established where there is a grandchild under 15. It is not established when a child is over 15. Hence in the first diagram a lone parent family is established whereas an other family is established in the second diagram in the absence of a child under 15.

Family Composition (FMCF) and Grandparent Families (FMGF)

The FMCF and FMGF variables both classify families into different family types, depending on the composition of the family. When classifying families into different types, information about temporarily absent family members is used. The focus of the FMGF classification is on grandparent families only.

Child Type (CTPP) and Child Type including grandchildren (CTGP)

The CTPP and CTGP variables both identify parent-child relationships within families. CTGP recognises grandparent-grandchild relationships as parent-child relationships, regardless of the age of the grandchild.

When using standard variables, a person who is aged 15 years or more and has the relationship of 'grandchild' is treated as an 'other relative'. That is, if there is a sole grandparent in the family, the family is coded as an 'other family'. A grandparent couple would be coded as a 'couple family with no children and with relatives'.

When using grandparent variables, this person is treated as a type of 'child'. A sole grandparent is classified as a 'lone parent' and a family with a grandparent couple is classified as a 'couple family with children'. The grandchild would have a relationship of 'dependent student' or 'non-dependent child', rather than 'other relative'.

Due to these differences in definitions, it is very important that the 'grandparent' variables are not mixed with the standard variables, as this could result in incorrect data.

|	**Standard variables**	**Grandparent variables**
A grandparent couple	Family is classified as 'couple family with no children and with relatives'.	Family is classified as 'couple family with children'.
A sole grandparent in the family	Family is classified as 'other family'.	Family is classified as 'lone parent'.
Person aged 15 years or more and has relationship of grandchild	Person is classified as 'other relative'.	Person is classified as a 'type of child' with a relationship of 'dependent student' or 'non-dependent child'.

Issues to Consider

Caring responsibilities

It is very important that users do not make assumptions about grandparent families, especially in relation to care, as this information is not necessarily indicative of care. Family Composition is indicative of family structure only. It is not indicative of family relationships and care. A 20 year old grandchild who lives with their grandmother may be a full-time student who is dependent on their grandmother for care. However it may equally be the case that they moved in with their grandmother to take care of her.

Absent adults

A temporarily absent adult may have an effect on how the family is coded. In the diagram below, three generations usually live together, however the 'middle' generation is away on Census night. This means that instead of the family being coded as a lone parent family, with the child under 15 coded as a 'natural or adopted child under 15' and the grandmother coded as an 'Other related individual (mother)', the grandmother is coded as a lone parent with one grandchild under 15 and one non-dependent temporarily absent child. For more information see the page on Temporarily Absent People.
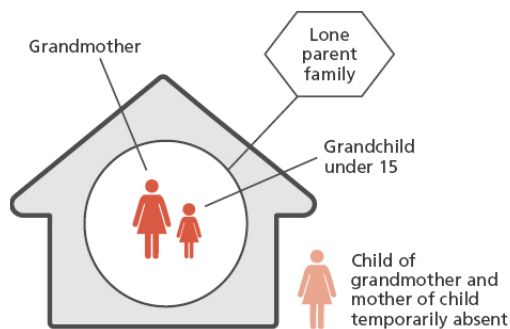
Other adults in the household

The way in which other adults in the household have been listed on the form in relation to Person One may also affect the ability to accurately identify 'grandparent families'.

About this Release

Census of Population and Housing: Understanding the Census and Census Data, Australia (cat. no. 2900.0) provides information to help people use and interpret 2016 Census data. The publication discusses how the data was collected, key changes to the Census process and data topics since 2011, and data quality information to help people assess the usefulness of 2016 Census data for their needs. Data quality statements are included to provide a brief description of each 2016 Census variable and its non-response rates.

History of Changes

20/12/2019 - A preamble has been added to the 'Understanding ancestry in the Norfolk Island population' article.

13/06/2018 - The person variable Homelessness Operational Groups (OPGP) data summary sheet has been created.

08/06/2018 - Understanding Migrant Statistics page has now been added to the Census conceptual information chapter. An update has been made to Grandparent Families and Temporarily Absent People which improves the quality of the diagrams.

02/05/2018 - Census Concepts documents have been added into the Conceptual information section of the publication. Additional usage notes have been added to the Age (AGEP) and Marriage (MSTP) data quality statements.

27/03/2018 - New data statements for Distance to Work and the National Indigenous Reform Agreements (NIRA) indicators have been included. Links were updated within Understanding Census data quality, Type of Educational Institution Attending (TYPP) and Industry (INDP) data quality statements.

20/02/2018 - The data quality statement for Industry of Employment (INDP) has been updated to add more detail about the changes made for this variable in the 2016 Census of Population and Housing.

17/11/2017 - The data quality statement for Supported Accommodation Flag (SAFD) has been updated for clarification that the the flag is not updated by ABS processing staff. This task is undertaken by a small team of ongoing staff members dedicated to quality assurance of homeless data, during the processing period. The match rate is undergoing a final review and will be subsequently updated.

08/11/2017 - Understanding the data section. Various minor formatting and grammatical errors have been corrected for data quality statements.

23/10/2017 - Data quality statements for second release data items has been made available. A new release titled "The 2016 Census and the Labour Force Survey" has been made available as a new page in the publication under "Conceptual information", and is also available to download in pdf format in the Downloads tab.

18/08/2017 - In 2011, the allocation of 2006 data was based on a population concordance; in 2016, this allocation was based on an area concordance. A text change was required after the re release to be consistent with the new methodology implemented.

08/08/2017 - A new release titled "Understanding ancestry in the Norfolk Island population" has been made available as a new page in the publication under "Conceptual information", and is also available to download in pdf format in the Downloads tab.

Explanatory Notes

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

There has been a change in methodology used to calculate the average number of persons per bedroom between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses. More information on this can change can be found in this publication on the *Comparing the average number of persons per bedroom over time* page.

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